NEW!

HISTORY of WAR

THE STORIES, STRATEGIE

MACHINES OF WAR
- USS GEORGE WASHINGTON
- AH-64 APACHE HELICOPTER
- HISTORY OF MISSILES

Gallipoli
Jeremy Paxman on
THE ANZAC TRAGEDY

TRIGGER POINT
SOVIET/AFGHAN WAR

CONQUEST WALES!
EDWARD I's CONWY CASTLE

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
THE BATTLE FOR PETERSBURG
PLUS THE WAR IN NUMBERS

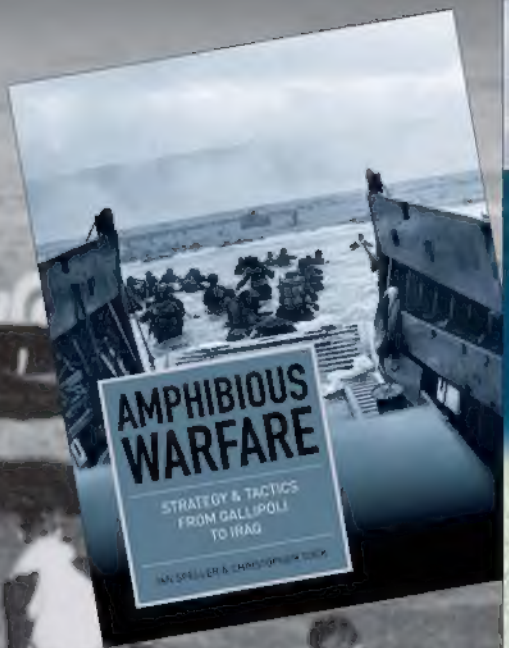
Churchill's
BATTLE *of* BRITAIN

HOW CHURCHILL AND THE RAF DEFENDED BRITISH SHORES FROM THE GERMAN ADVANCE

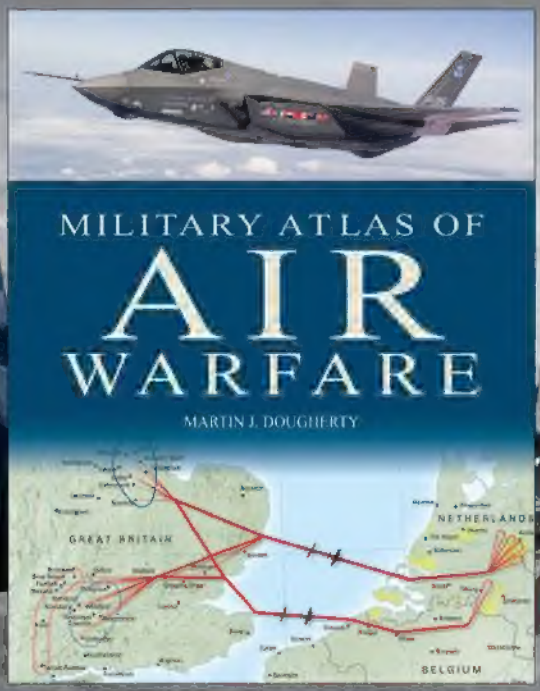
THE LATEST BOOKS, APPS, DVDS **REVIEWED & RATED** | **LEADERS OF MEN** THE GREATEST CRUSADERS | VISITING THE **WESTERN FRONT** BATTLEGROUNDS

Anthem
APRIL 2014 ISSUE 2 £3.99
9 772054 376004 04

New from Amber Books



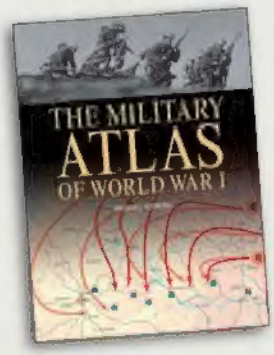
192pp hardback
RRP £19.99
ISBN 978-1-78274-140-4



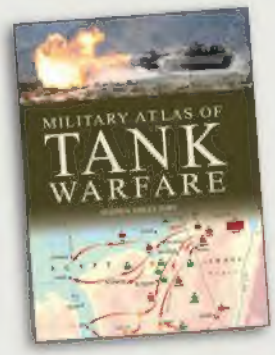
176pp hardback
RRP £24.99
ISBN 978-1-78274-138-1

192pp hardback
RRP £19.99
ISBN 978-1-78274-135-0

ALSO AVAILABLE...

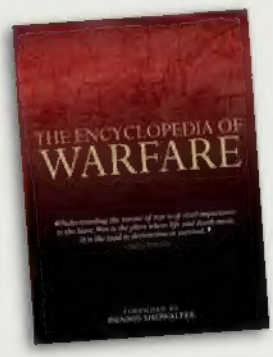


THE MILITARY ATLAS OF WORLD WAR I
192pp hardback
RRP £24.99
ISBN 978-1-78274-131-2



THE MILITARY ATLAS OF TANK WARFARE
176pp hardback
RRP £24.99
ISBN 978-1-78274-139-8

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE: HITLER'S LAST HOPE
192pp hardback
RRP £19.99
ISBN 978-1-78274-136-7



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WARFARE
1024pp hardback
RRP £49.99
ISBN 978-1-78274-023-0

Order now from:
Casemate UK, 10 Hythe Bridge St., Oxford OX1 2EW
(p)+44 (01865) 241249, (f)+44 (01865) 794449,
casemate-uk@casematepublishing.co.uk

amber BOOKS
www.amberbooks.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/amberbooks
Twitter: @amberbooks

Discover more at www.amberbooks.co.uk

HISTORY of WAR

Welcome

A big thank you to the many thousands of you who bought the first issue of *History Of War*, and a warm welcome to this, our second issue, where we take a detailed look at how the Battle of Britain progressed in 1940 and how Churchill's attitude to the conflict helped to shape Hitler's ambitions on the British front (turn to page 18).

Elsewhere, we explore the origins of the Soviet war in Afghanistan (page 86), examine the battle of Petersburg, which effectively ended the American Civil War (page 30), and run through some of the battles that influenced the outcome of the French Revolution and marked Napoleon's meteoric rise through the ranks of his army (page 68). We also welcome broadcaster and journalist Jeremy Paxman to our pages, as he considers what happened to his uncle at Gallipoli (page 50). All this and much, much more! Enjoy the issue.

Paul Pettengale *Editorial Director*
paul.pettengale@anthem-publishing.com

Share your views and opinions online
historyofwar.co.uk

Search **History Of War Magazine**
@HistoryOfWarMag

Contributors

JEREMY PAXMAN
The renowned journalist, broadcaster and author of history books contributes to *History Of War* with a fascinating feature on the battle of Gallipoli and the role played by his Uncle Charlie, who gave his life during the devastating conflict of 1915.

STEVE JARRATT
With over 30 years' experience of magazine journalism and editing at the highest level, Steve was ideally placed to craft our feature on the Battle of Britain and Winston Churchill's role in it, utilising texts by historians Jon Lake and Brenda Ralph.

CHRIS McNAB
Chris is a prolific author, with over 40 books on military history under his belt. He is an expert on the American Civil War and contributes to this issue with a detailed analysis of the battle that effectively ended it: the finale of the siege of Petersburg.

Subscribe
GET 25% OFF THE COVER PRICE AND A FREE BOOK WORTH £30 (SEE P44)

ON THE COVER

Churchill's Battle of Britain

p18

REGULARS

War In Focus Conflict through a camera lens 6
Dispatches News and stories..... 12
Letters Your views and opinions. 17
Tools of the Trade US Marine kit 28
Inside View The USS George Washington 46
Military Milestones Missiles 66
Machines of War AH-64 Apache. 90
Reviews The latest book, DVD and game releases..... 92
Ten Greatest WWII movies 96
War in Numbers The American Civil War 98

Subscribe

GET 25% OFF THE COVER PRICE AND A FREE BOOK WORTH £30

p44

GALLIPOLI p50

p38

p90

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON p46

HISTORY of WAR

Contents

APRIL 2014 ISSUE 02

PETERSBURG p30

Features

- **Churchill's Battle of Britain**
  Hitler's forces were amassing in France, preparing to invade England. But they hadn't reckoned with the new PM 18
- **Great Battles *Petersburg***
  A detailed look at one of the American Civil War's most pivotal engagements ... 30
- **Conwy Castle**
  King Edward I built this imposing fortress to keep the Welsh at bay, and it has many a tale to tell 38
- **What happened to Uncle Charlie**
  Jeremy Paxman looks back at the First World War Gallipoli campaign, and explores what became of his heroic relative 50
- **Back to the Past**
  A new battlefield tour, Fritz and Tommy, delves into the stories of both British and German forces fighting in France and Belgium during the First World War 61

Battles in Brief
The French Revolution: Part One
The skirmishes that shaped the French Revolutionary Wars, and turned Napoleon into a leader to be reckoned with..... 68

- **Leaders of Men *Crusaders***
  Meet the brave, committed and sometimes downright scheming men and women who played a part in the holy wars of the Middle Ages 74

From the Front
There are numerous Vietnam War films out there, but it's not often we get a glimpse of the personalities in the thick of the action 79

- **Trigger Point**
  The start of the Soviet/Afghan War, a conflict that changed the world 86

p86

p66

▶ Denotes on the cover

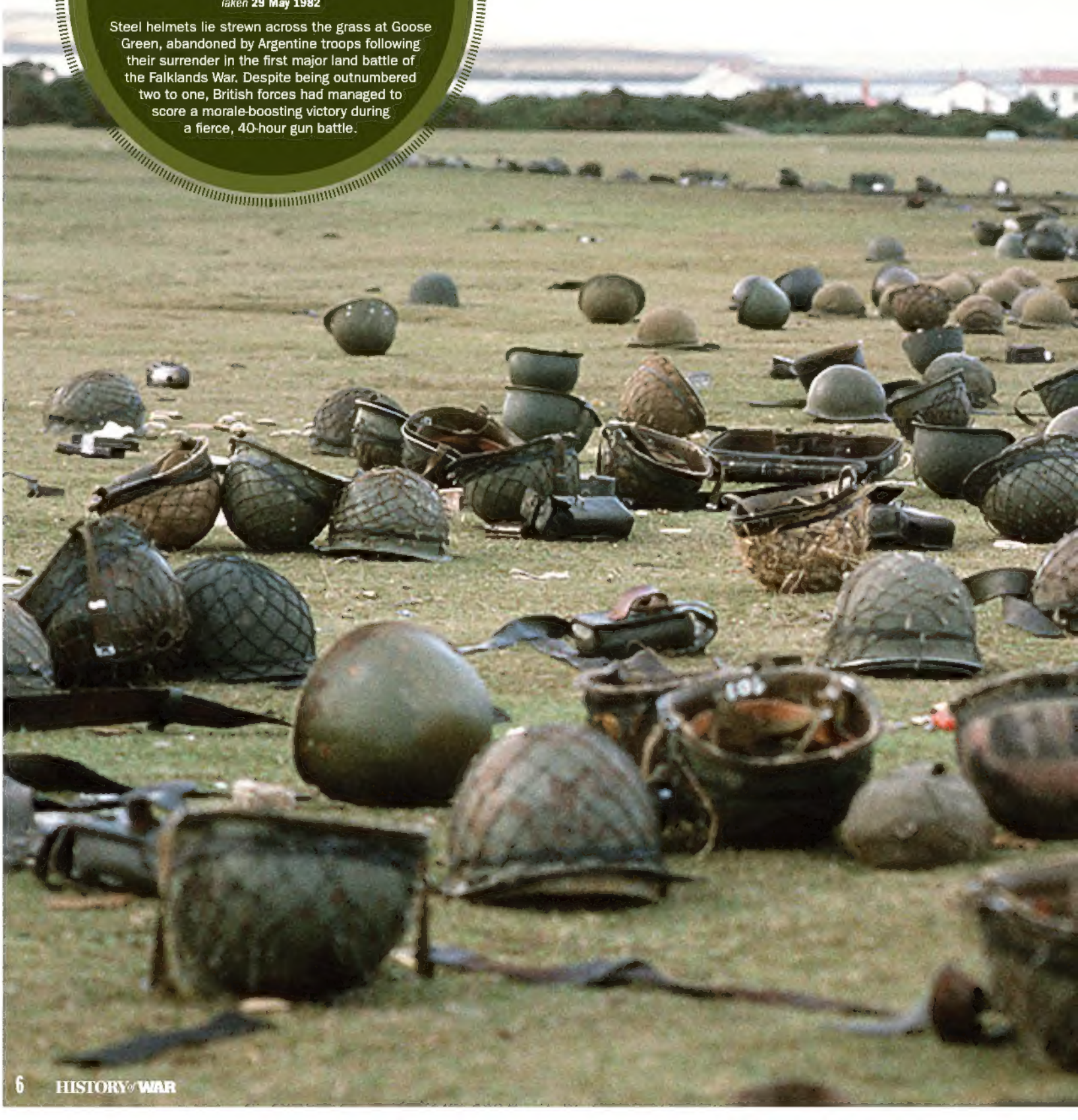
TopFoto

WAR in FOCUS

DISCARDED ARGENTINE HELMETS AT GOOSE GREEN

Taken **29 May 1982**

Steel helmets lie strewn across the grass at Goose Green, abandoned by Argentine troops following their surrender in the first major land battle of the Falklands War. Despite being outnumbered two to one, British forces had managed to score a morale-boosting victory during a fierce, 40-hour gun battle.



TopFoto

WAR in FOCUS

AN EMOTIONAL FAMILY GREETING FOR A RETURNING PRIVATE

Taken **January 1946**

Mrs Flo Martin's flag had already been hanging up for two weeks when she received a call from her son, Private Bill Martin of the Royal Army Medical Corps, to say that he would soon be returning home to London from Burma, where the Allies had just defeated the Japanese. A cup of Mum's tea had probably never tasted better.

Mary Evans Picture Library

WAR FOCUS

ANTI-VIETNAM WAR DEMONSTRATION AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Taken **4 May 1970**

A student lies dead in the grounds of Kent State University, Ohio – one of four killed when National Guardsmen fired 67 rounds in 13 seconds into an anti-Vietnam War demonstration. Nine more were wounded in the incident.

DISPATCHES

Military news and opinion from around the globe, including a doo-biously shaped Vietnam transmitter, the untold story of some WWII gardeners, and an explosive art mystery...

COLD-WAR NUCLEAR LEVELS PROVE THAT PAINTING IS A FAKE

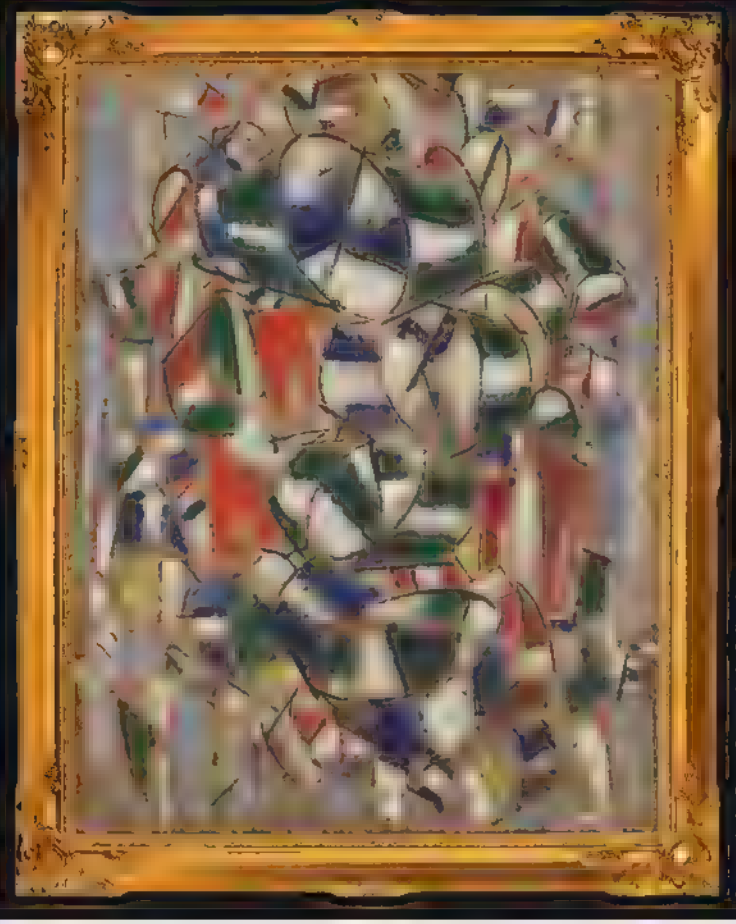
Scientists use new carbon-dating method to ascertain that "Léger" work hails from the 1950s

A painting in Venice's Peggy Guggenheim Collection has been revealed as a fake – after the intervention of nuclear physicists.

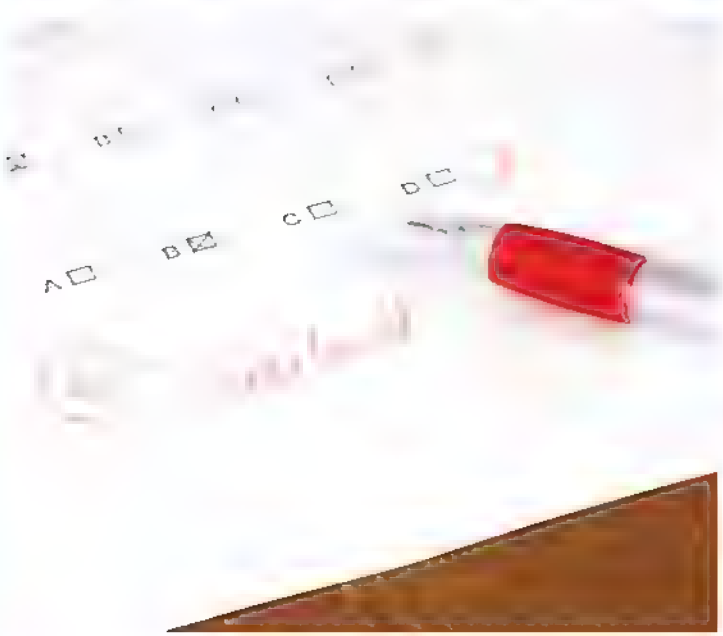
For years, experts on Fernand Léger's works had suspected that *Contraste de Formes* – originally believed to have been produced by the French artist between 1913 and 1914 – was not original. But now scientists at the Florence-based Institute for Nuclear Physicists have proved as much using a new carbon-dating method – the so-called "bomb-peak" curve – that positions the work firmly in the Cold War era.

The carbon-14 method estimates the age of organic materials based on radiocarbon levels released during a series of nuclear tests conducted during the Cold War. One of the secondary effects of these tests was a substantial increase in the level of radiocarbon in the atmosphere, and the fact that this painting came up with a high reading proved that it was created around this time and not decades earlier.

"This comparison, used for the first time to ascertain the authenticity of an artwork, demonstrated with absolute certainty that the [painting's] canvas support was produced after 1959, which was at least four years later than Fernand Léger's death in 1955," the Institute confirmed in a statement.



legerpaintingPeggyGuggenheimCollection



British knowledge of the First World War is severely lacking, according to new research

Did you know that Britain and Canada were both involved in the First World War? It may be common knowledge for many of us, but new research suggests that only 38 per cent of British people were aware of this. Meanwhile, less than half of the respondents involved in the survey knew that the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand triggered the start of the war.

The research, which was carried out on 1,955 adults in Britain, plus natives of six other countries, raised some alarming statistics. Twenty-seven per cent of Indian respondents believed that India fought against Britain, when in fact 1.4 million Indians fought as part of the British forces. Worse still, seven per cent of British respondents under the age of 24 believed that Margaret Thatcher was the Prime Minister during the war!

John Worne, the British Council's Director of Strategy, said, "Our research shows that the things we in the UK know and remember the most from the First World War are the harrowing images and iconic stories from the Western Front."

Experts cited a number of reasons for the public's limited knowledge, including poor history education in schools and the conflict being overshadowed by the Second World War and affairs in the Middle East.

RUSSIAN NEWS ANCHOR LABELS IWO-JIMA MEMORIAL AS "GAY"

Superpowers engage in a new Cold War, only this time it's monument-bashing

A prominent anchor on state television in Russia has caused controversy by insinuating that the US Marines depicted in the Iwo-Jima war memorial near Washington DC look as if they are engaged in homosexual activity.

Never afraid to be outspoken in his views, Dmitry Kiselyov told viewers, "[The memorial] is easy to mock. A fevered subconsciousness could ascribe just about anything to it. Take a closer look: a very modern theme, is it not?"

The outburst came in response to an article written by a CNN correspondent entitled "The World's Ugliest Monuments", in which it was suggested that a figure in a Second World War monument in Brest looked constipated. The article has since been removed from the CNN website.

Kiselyov was appointed head of the state news agency RIA Novosti by Vladimir Putin in December. His comments are the latest in a wave of anti-gay propaganda to emerge out of Russia in recent months.

HOW GARDENING HELPED CAMP INMATES THROUGH THE WAR

A NEW RHS EXHIBITION WILL SHED LIGHT ON THE MEN WHO PLANTED SEEDS OF HOPE AT RUHLEBEN

Think of the First World War and your mind immediately conjures up images of muddy trenches. But for a small group of Britons in Germany, the conflict had a somewhat greener outlook to it.

When war broke out in 1914, there were around 5,000 British men living and working in Germany. As potential enemy soldiers, they were not allowed to return home, but neither were they prisoners of war. The German government's compromise was an internment camp, with all British men aged 17-55 being arrested and taken to Ruhleben near Berlin. As well as setting up an amateur-dramatics group, an internal postal service and a casino, and organising regular sporting fixtures, many men took up horticulture. Some grew shrubs to hide the barbed wire, while others nurtured chrysanthemums and dahlias. And vegetables were grown to feed their fellow inmates, too.

This autumn, the Royal Horticultural Society plans to run an exhibition telling the Ruhleben story, and Fiona Davison, Head of Libraries and Exhibitions, thinks it will provide a fascinating insight. "The story of the Ruhleben Horticultural Society is completely unique," she says, "in that, unlike many WWI histories that tell of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, it is all but unknown."

Events

▶ 6 APRIL

Chelmsford Militaria Fair

The only indoor event of its kind in Essex, this fair features two halls bustling with dealers selling their wares to discerning collectors and military re-enactors.

Marconi Social Club, Chelmsford, Essex. *07595 511981; www.chelmsfordmilitaria.com*

▶ 12-13 APRIL

Colwyn Bay 1940s Festival

Attractions include military vehicles, heritage tours, film footage, Forties food and live entertainment.

Colwyn Bay Town Centre, North Wales. *01492 577600; www.facebook.com/FortiesFestival*

▶ 13 APRIL

Massive war-games show run by the South London Warlords.

ExCel, London. *www.salute.co.uk*

▶ 13 APRIL

Hack Green Bunker Sale

Sale of military electronics, ham radios and vehicle spares.

Hack Green, Nantwich, Cheshire. 01270 [illegible]

▶ 13 APRIL

Crank-Up

Attendees are invited to display their military vehicles old and new.

York Castle Museum, York. *www.yorkshiremvt.co.uk*

▶ 13 APRIL

The REME Museum Model Show

This is the museum's second show of transport and military models.

REME Museum, Arborfield, Berkshire. *0118 976 3375; www.remamuseum.org.uk*

▶ 19-21 APRIL

Tanks and Military Machines

Everything from re-enactments to aerial displays and blank-firing tanks.

Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre. *01790 763207; www.lincsaviation.co.uk*

ANGLO-ZULU WAR ITEMS GO UNDER THE HAMMER

A collection of artefacts from the Anglo-Zulu War have been auctioned in Sussex on the 135th anniversary of one of the conflict's most famous skirmishes, the Battle of Isandlwana in 1879.

War shields, stabbing spears and staffs were among the 154 lots sold off by Wallis & Wallis in Lewes, with the items fetching a total of £95,485. The collection had belonged to David Smith, who started gathering the artefacts after being inspired by the 1964 Michael Caine film *Zulu*, but has since passed away.

WAR SHIELDS, STABBING SPEARS AND STAFFS WERE AMONG THE 154 LOTS SOLD OFF BY WALLIS & WALLIS AUCTIONEERS IN LEWES

The items included a Zulu regimental war shield, a *knobkierrie* – thought to be an executioner's club – a short stabbing spear with a razor sharp blade known as an *ikiwa* (the name comes from the sucking sound the weapon made when it was withdrawn from the body), along with two hardwood status staffs.

Some of the pieces were bought by people from South Africa, revealing that the conflict still resonates on an emotional level. Carol Slater of the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government in South Africa said, "It's a bit like the Elgin marbles, where people want them to come back to where they belong. There's a sense that [the items] should not be out of the country."

The Michael Caine film recounts the battle of Rorke's Drift, where 150 British soldiers heroically fought off around 4,000 warrior tribesmen. Eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded for the defence – more than for any single battle before or since.

Wallis & Wallis

NEVER MIND THE DOG TAGS, LOOK OUT FOR THE DOG POO

American troops in the Vietnam War had to make sure they didn't step in any dog poo – because it might not have been dog poo.

During the conflict, the US Army developed a cleverly disguised homing beacon called the T-1151 Dog Doo Transmitter (not pictured), which emitted a warning when movements occurred, allowing military bosses to monitor shipments or find soldiers in need of rescue.

Says the *Gale Encyclopedia of Espionage & Intelligence*, "Because the device gave the appearance of fecal matter, it was often left undisturbed and thus retained a high efficiency as a homing beacon, even when planted days or weeks before a mission."

Shutterstock

Letter from Great War sailor arrives 98 years late

The next time you quibble about a letter or parcel arriving a couple of days late, spare a thought for the family of First World War sailor David John Phillips – it's taken 98 years for them to receive a letter he penned back in December 1916!

The sealed and stamped envelope, addressed to Phillips' family in Wales, was discovered in 1988 behind a fireplace in a house in Kirkwall, Orkney, where Phillips was stationed during the war. It's believed that it had been propped up on the mantelpiece ready to be taken to the Post Office, but had fallen down and been forgotten about.

After the letter was handed over to Orkney Library last year, a search began to find the intended recipients – or their ancestors, anyway. An online appeal led to a distant relative in Canada suggesting that the sailor may have been Phillips. The man contacted Mary Hodge in Chester, who recognised the author as her grandfather. She is now planning a visit to Orkney to collect the letter.

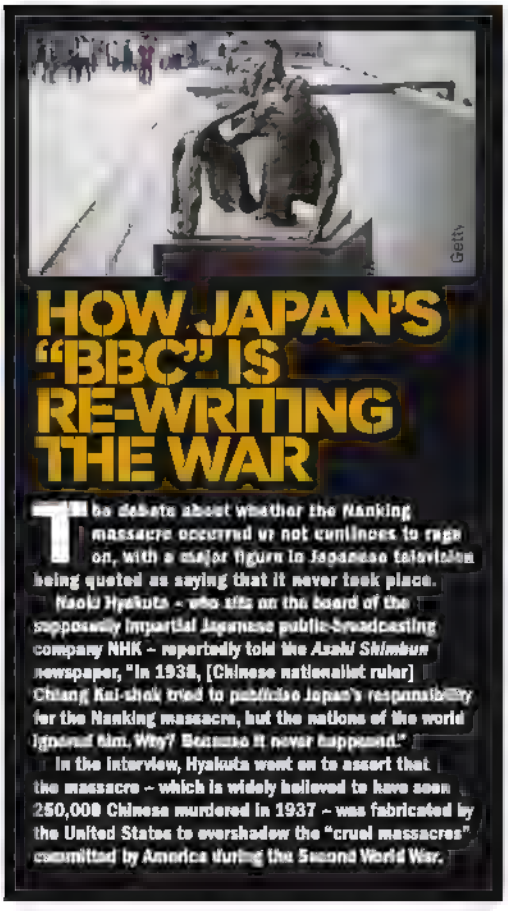
Shutterstock

FIRST WORLD WAR HERO LEAVES SKETCHBOOK OF HIS BATTLEFIELD DRAWINGS

Pictures provide precious memento for family

Many men and women return from battle not wanting to talk about their experiences, and Sydney Green was no different. However, the Suffolk Regiment soldier (pictured), who fought in France during the First World War, found another way to remember his time on the frontline. He kept a sketchbook, small enough to keep inside his uniform pocket, and drew pictures of the devastation that surrounded him – the ruins of Givenchy Church; the debris-strewn fountain of Mortagne; a broken bridge at Stambruges, destroyed by retreating German forces.

While the pictures are slightly faded and stained now, they shed some light on the kind of man Sydney was – a consolation to his son, Ernie, now 93, who remembers his father saying very little to his family from the day he returned from the battlefield to the day he died in 1977. "I wish I knew more about my father," he laments. "But I lost the chance."



HOW JAPAN'S "BBC" IS RE-WRITING THE WAR

The debate about whether the Nanking massacre occurred or not continues to rage on, with a major figure in Japanese television being quoted as saying that it never took place.

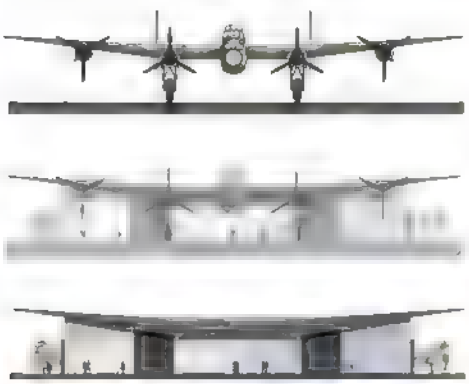
Naoki Hyakuta – who sits on the board of the supposedly impartial Japanese public-broadcasting company NHK – reportedly told the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper, "In 1938, [Chinese nationalist ruler] Chiang Kai-shek tried to publicise Japan's responsibility for the Nanking massacre, but the nations of the world ignored him. Why? Because it never happened."

In the interview, Hyakuta went on to assert that the massacre – which is widely believed to have seen 250,000 Chinese murdered in 1937 – was fabricated by the United States to overshadow the "cruel massacres" committed by America during the Second World War.

Bomber Command centre to pay tribute to an icon

Is it a building? Is it a plane? Actually, it's kind of both. This is an artist's impression of what a new RAF Bomber Command centre in Lincoln will look like. The centre, which will tell the story of Bomber Command and the 55,573 personnel who died in the Second World War, will be named after Roy Chadwick, the Lancashire-born engineer who designed the iconic Lancaster Bomber. And because of this, it was felt that the building should feature an emphatic tribute to his legendary aircraft, which was prominent in a number of WW II campaigns, including the Dambuster raid of 1943.

Nicky Barr, of the Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial Trust (LBCMT), explained that the centre will help to provide an understanding of the effect the war had on the civilian population in continental Europe and at home, adding that the distinctive Lancaster Bomber design will "echo the crouching beauty of its form".



Events

▶ 26-27 APRIL
Grand Historical and Vintage Bazaar
This multi-period living-history and sale show is now in its sixth year.
Rufford Abbey Country Park, Nottinghamshire. *01623 822944; www.eventplan.co.uk*

▶ 26-27 APRIL
South East Midlands Crank-Up
Organised by the South East Midlands section of the Military Vehicle Trust, this event invites you to come along, pitch your tent, drive your military vehicle around a field and have a natter.
John Marchant's Farm, Cosgrove, Buckinghamshire.
01536 799395; ww.mvtsem.com

▶ 27 APRIL
Dallas Dig-Out
A car-boot sale, but for military clothes and memorabilia.
Dallas Autos, Newbury, Berkshire.
01635 201124

▶ 27 APRIL
Northern Military Expo
Traders selling everything from vehicles to books.
Newark Showground, Nottinghamshire. *01302 739000; www.nmexpo.co.uk*

▶ 3-5 MAY
Muddy Good Weekend
Four-wheel-drive and military show with a three-day battle re-enactment.
Billing Aquadrome, Northamptonshire.
01604 407477; www.billingshows.com

AND DON'T FORGET THESE EVENTS LATER IN THE YEAR...

▶ 16-20 JULY
The War And Peace Revival
RAF Westenhanger, Folkestone Racecourse, Kent. *01304 813337; www.thewarandpeacerevival.co.uk*

▶ 1-3 AUGUST
Military & Flying Machines Show
Damyns Hall Aerodrome, Upminster, Essex.
www.militaryandflyingmachines.org.uk

▶ 23-25 AUGUST
Military Odyssey
The Kent Show Ground, Detling, Kent.
www.military-odyssey.com

▶ 20-21 SEPTEMBER
Euro Militaire
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, Kent. *0844 848 8822; www.euromilitaire.co.uk*

HISTORY of WAR

READ ON ANY DEVICE, ANY TIME!

Download your FREE App today

SINGLE ISSUES JUST £2.49/$3.99
SUBSCRIBE FROM £2.49 PER MONTH or £25.99 PER YEAR

Search for *History of War* and download your FREE App today

Available on the App Store | Available on the Google play | Available on kindle fire | Available on the App Store

LETTERS

Make your thoughts and opinions known by writing to *History Of War*. Email historyofwar@anthem-publishing.com or send letters to the address below

FACING THE FACTS

Dear Sir,

It was fascinating to read Ben Macintyre's account of Operation Mincemeat. But there are various details that one can add to the story.

It was my father, Ronnie Reed, an MI5 officer, whose photograph was used for the Identity Card of the fictitious "Major Martin". Ewan Montagu had found it impossible to find anyone who looked at all like the body they were going to use for the stratagem. But they had to include an Identity Card in the briefcase that the body was carrying. At a meeting to discuss the Double Agent Zigzag, Montagu found himself sitting opposite my father, who was in charge of the Zigzag case. As Montagu wrote afterwards, Ronnie Reed "could have been the twin brother of the corpse", so he asked him if they could have a photo to use for the stratagem, and dressed him up in Marine uniform.

My father remembered that, five years after the war ended, he attended a meeting in Oxford at which members of MI5 and MI6 convened over a weekend at Worcester College. The attendance list for this get-together survives, but does not include my father's name. What it does include is a "Major W Martin", though there was no such officer in the Security Service at that time. One can only conclude that Ronnie Reed attended the conference in the guise of Major William Martin: the fictitious Man Who Never Was!

In his book, Ben Macintyre is remarkably critical of the stratagem and how it was carried out. He complains that the story of William Martin was too perfect: for example, there were no loose ends and there was excessive detail. He ends by saying that, "In the warped intelligence mentality, something that looks too perfect is probably a fake." But these arguments do not hold up. A double agent telling a plausible story to the Germans has to be extremely careful not to slip up in any detail of the story he gives. Any such slip might give away the whole story as untrue. The British were, in fact, meticulous in checking every tiny detail of the deception, and the misdirections they supplied resulted in the saving, probably, of thousands of lives when the Allies finally invaded Sicily.

Nicholas Reed *Author of My Father, the Man Who Never Was*

Thank you for providing us with some fascinating background to the feature we ran in issue one. We would love to hear other tales about how the readers of History of War related to past conflicts. Do you have a war hero in your family? Write to us to let us know their story.

BACK TO BLACK

Dear Sir,

I picked up a copy of *History Of War* and was very impressed. I tend to buy American military magazines such as *Military History*, *World War II* and *America in WWII*. I'm African-Caribbean and have an interest in the black military experience of war, whether it's African, African-Caribbean or African-American, and the American magazines tend to publish articles on that particular subject (the Tuskegee airmen, the Red Ball Express, the Montford Marines and the like). The Commonwealth sent troops from Africa, the Caribbean and the Indian subcontinent in both World Wars, and these soldiers served with distinction. I'd like to see articles on this subject in future issues of your magazine.

I'm also looking forward to seeing a 70th-anniversary of D-Day issue of *History Of War*. Apparently, this is going to be one of the last major celebrations of this momentous event, as the veterans are, sadly, few and far between nowadays, and the Queen will be attending. I really hope they televise that occasion, with David Dimbleby narrating the events.

Derek Harrison *Via email*

Thanks for your feedback. We'll be presenting a lead feature on the D-Day landings in issue four of the magazine, on sale first week in May. We're really glad you enjoyed the mag and we've taken on board your comments.

Cover illustration Rob Hefferan

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Paul Pettengale **paul.pettengale@anthem-publishing.com**

ART DIRECTOR Jenny Cook **jenny.cook@anthem-publishing.com**

ART EDITOR Kai Wood **kai.wood@anthem-publishing.com**

PRODUCTION EDITOR Paul Dimery **paul.dimery@anthem-publishing.com**

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER Jackie Ainsworth **jackie.ainsworth@anthem-publishing.com**

SOCIAL-MEDIA EDITOR Chris Short **chris.short@anthem-publishing.com**

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Simon Lewis **simon.lewis@anthem-publishing.com**

MARKETING MANAGER Alex Godfrey **alex.godfrey@anthem-publishing.com**

MARKETING EXECUTIVE Kate Doyle **kate.doyle@anthem-publishing.com**

MANAGING DIRECTOR Jon Bickley **jon.bickley@anthem-publishing.co.uk**

PRINT **Polestar UK Print Ltd** Tel +44 (0) 1206 849500

DISTRIBUTION **Marketforce (UK) Ltd** *The Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU* Tel +44 (0)1582 678900

COMPETITION RULES

Late or incomplete entries will be disqualified. Only one entry per person will be accepted. The company reserves the right to substitute any prize with cash or a prize of comparable value. Competitions are open to UK residents over 18 only, except employees of Anthem Publishing and any party involved in the competition or their households. By entering a competition, you give permission to use personal information in connection with the competition, for promotional purposes. If you do not want your information to be shared, please tick "no offers" on your entry. Entries become the property of the company upon receipt and will not be returned. If you are a winner, receipt of prize is conditional upon complying with the competition rules. A list of winners will be available upon request.

ANTHEM PUBLISHING Ltd *Suite 6, Piccadilly House, London Road, Bath BA1 6PL*
Tel +44 (0) 1225 489985 Fax +44 (0) 1225 489980 www.anthem-publishing.com

All content copyright Anthem Publishing Ltd. 2014, all rights reserved. While we make every effort to ensure that the factual content of *History Of War* is correct, we cannot take any responsibility nor be held accountable for any factual errors printed. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or resold without the prior consent of Anthem Publishing Ltd. Anthem Publishing recognises all copyrights contained within this issue. Where possible, we acknowledge the copyright holder. *History Of War* is a trademark owned by Anthem Publishing.

Churchill's BATTLE of BRITAIN

Second World War: With German forces running rampant across Europe, and an invasion force amassing on the French coast, it would take a brave soul not to yield to Hitler's demands. Fortunately for Britain, Winston Churchill was in no mood to surrender to the Nazis...

On 7 May 1940, following a series of diplomatic defeats and humiliations, Britain's Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, was in the House of Commons facing the full wrath of its patrons. The failed defence of Norway against an invading German army forced a debate in which the PM was fiercely criticised by both the opposition and members of his own party. Three days later, on 10 May, Chamberlain resigned from office and handed over power to the then-Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill. A few hours after that, Germany invaded France, bringing Hitler's troops right to Britain's doorstep.

Unlike his predecessor, Churchill had no intention of negotiating for peace. He'd long been an opponent of Germany's rearmament, and denounced Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler – he knew the Nazi movement was not one to be bargained with.

Although he was 65 years old, Churchill was invigorated by the advent of war, and his bold rhetoric served as a great inspiration to the populace, hardening their resolve against any suggestion of armistice. But after nearly six weeks of unremitting work, the strain was starting to show. When Churchill repeated his "finest hour" speech on the radio on the evening of 18 June 1940, he sounded tired. His once-vaunted optimism of the previous year had gone out of it. That same night, the war took a frightening turn when 120 Luftwaffe bombers raided northern England, killing nine people.

Churchill spent the following weekend at Chequers, the Prime Minister's official country residence in Buckinghamshire. The atmosphere was grim. As he later

> Although he was 65 years old, Churchill was invigorated by the advent of war, and his bold rhetoric served as a great inspiration to the populace, hardening their resolve against any suggestion of armistice

> When Churchill repeated his "finest hour" speech on the radio on the evening of 18 June 1940, he sounded tired. His once-vaunted optimism of the previous year had gone out of it

> While the Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax, was open to the idea, it was not an option for Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who readied the RAF for war in the skies

Getty Images

IT BECAME CLEAR TO CLEMENTINE THAT CHURCHILL'S FITS OF TEMPER WERE MAKING IT HARD FOR HIS FELLOW MINISTERS TO WORK WITH HIM

told Anthony Eden, his War Min ster, "Normally, I wake up buoyant to face the new day. Then, I awoke w th dread n my heart." On 20 June, the PM had told a secret session at the House of Commons that plans for prosecuting the war in 1941 and 1942 had been laid, but there was no guarantee that Britain would remain at l.berty long enough to put them into practice. Churchill's mood swung between his "black dog" depress ons and bouts of aggression.

It became clear to his wife, C ementine, that Churchill's fits of temper were making it difficult for h s fellow m nisters to work with him, and she tried to ntervene. "My darling," she began, "one of the men in your entourage – a devoted friend – has told me that there's a danger of your being generally d s ked by your colleagues and subordinates because of your rough, sarcastic and overbearing manner. My dar ng Winston, I must confess that I have not ced a deterioration in your manner, and you are not so kind as you used to be I cannot bear that those who serve the country and yourself should not love you as well as admire and respect you. Besides, you won't get the best results by irascibi ity and rudeness."

This picture **Winston and Clementine**
Opposite page
A WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) operative scans her cathode-ray-tube display for signs of enemy activity. The system was then known as RDF (Radio Direction Finding)

BRIT FLICK
A FILM ABOUT THE CONFLICT WAS MADE IN 1969. SIMPLY CALLED *BATTLE OF BRITAIN*, IT STARRED SIR LAURENCE OLIVIER, TREVOR HOWARD AND MICHAEL CAINE.

Churchill valued Clementine's advice, but had little time to adjust his conduct before he was faced with an agonis ng decision. It concerned the French fleet berthed at the nava base of Mers-el-Kéb r, near Oran in Algeria. After the Franco-German Armist ce was signed on 22 June, these powerful, wel-equipped vessels were in danger of falling into German hands. When the French authorities at Oran, who were loyal to the Vichy government, refused to co-operate with Britain by putting their ships out of reach, Churchill ordered the destruct on of the fleet. On 3 July 1940, the guns of Force H, the Royal Navy squadron in the Mediterranean, sank the French batt eship Bretagne, crippled the batt eship Dunkerque and damaged five other vessels, with the loss of 1,297 French seamen. Church l later wrote of this attack on a former a y as "a hateful decision, the most unnatural and painfu in which I have ever been concerned".

The action at Mers-el-Kéb r had unexpected, though salutary, effects. It removed any lingering doubts – especially in the United States – over Britain's w l to fight and win the war, and gave the British a new name for ruthless resolve. Churchill later called it "the turning point in our fortunes. It made the world realise that we were in earnest in our intentions to carry on."

The next, more serious, test of Brita n's will soon followed Plans were being laid by the Germans for Operation Sea Lion – the invasion of Britain In preparation for this, the Luftwaffe launched a series of air attacks in order to destroy the RAF and establish supremacy in the air. Churchill himself had named the upcoming conf ct in his speech to Par ament, pronouncing, "What [French Commander] General [Max me] Weygand has called the Battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin."

"Operation Eagle Attack" began on 13 August – codenamed *Adlertag*, or Eagle Day. Field Marshal Hermann Goering, the head of the German air force, had every expectation of quick success. Aircraft production in Britain had accelerated since the war began, but not enough to confront Goering's Luftwaffe on equal terms. The RAF had only 650 Hurricane and Spitfire fighters to face the Luftwaffe's 2,800 planes – though this disparity was deceptive The RAF managed to keep 600 Spitfires and Hurricanes in service every day, and these a rcraft had the advantage of operating from their home bases The equivalent figure for the Luftwaffe's Messerschmitt Bf 109s was 800, but their bases in the recently conquered territories of Belg um and France were not yet fully prepared. In add tion, the Luftwaffe's flying time over Brita n was restricted to 25 minutes by the l mited amount of fuel its p anes could carry.

Crucial advantage

The most crucial advantage the RAF enjoyed, though, was the chain of radar warning stat ons that could detect incoming raiders at long range. This enab ed the RAF to concentrate its squadrons and have them waiting in the right p ace before the Luftwaffe arrived

The roots of this system were estab shed in 1933 with the d rection of fighters from the ground using rad o telephony to convey instructions, and High Frequency D rection Finding (HF DF) to work out their position when out of sight of the controller. By 1935, the system had been suffic ently refined to allow a fighter to be vectored onto a bomber target above cloud, at n ght.

In 1934, Harry Egerton W mperis, the Government's Director of Scientific Research, was given a brief to see

1940 *Battle of Britain timeline*

30 JUNE
Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering, head of the Luftwaffe, orders his pilots to draw the Royal Air Force into battle with attacks on coastal convoys, aircraft factories and airfields.

10 JULY
The Luftwaffe begins attacking convoys in the English Channel, as a means of reconnaissance and to train its pilots. It begins to drop mines around Britain on the 13th.

16 JULY
Adolf Hitler delivers Fuhrer Directive 17 as Operation Sea Lion. A land invasion of the British mainland is set to take place between 19 and 26 September.

1 AUGUST
Hitler decrees the Battle of Britain with the command, "The German Air Force is to overcome the British Air Force with all means at its disposal, and as soon as possible."

12 AUGUST
Germany begins its main raids across Britain, codenamed *Adlerangriff* or "Eagle Attack". Its planes carry out a systematic assault on RDF stations and forward-fighter airfields.

13 AUGUST
Delayed by bad weather, *Adlertag* or "Eagle Day" commences. The Luftwaffe begins a four-day attack on key RAF airfields and RDF stations, launching 1,485 sorties. The Germans lose 45 aircraft and the RAF 13.

15 AUGUST
On what the Luftwaffe calls "Black Thursday", the Germans focus their attention on RAF airfields. The German air force launches 1,786 sorties to the RAF's 974. German losses amount to 75 aircraft; the RAF loses just 34.

Hurricanes on the production line. The plane's structure was robust, light, relatively easy to manufacture and repair, and capable of absorbing staggering amounts of battle damage

how technology might be used to make fighters more efficient. He approached the physicist Robert Watson-Watt, to enquire as to the practicality of producing a radio-based "death ray". It was apparent to the scientists that there was no way (at that time, at least) of generating beams of sufficient power to harm either humans or aircraft, but Watson-Watt did point out the potential of using radio beams for target detection, and asked if the Air Ministry might be interested in how planes could be detected by transmitting radio waves that would be reflected by the target aircraft. ▶

17 AUGUST

Germany establishes an "operational area" around Britain. Any ship entering is to be sunk without warning. Crews from Bomber Command are seconded to fill the RAF's dwindling supply of fighter pilots.

18 AUGUST

Both sides suffer their biggest losses on what becomes known as "The Hardest Day". Between 8 and 18 August, the RAF loses 175 aircraft and the Luftwaffe 332.

19 AUGUST

German attacks begin on RAF aircraft factories.

20 AUGUST

Churchill gives a speech in Parliament, stating that, "Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few."

23 AUGUST

Goering orders attacks on RAF airfields. Bombs are also dropped on residential areas of London.

24 AUGUST

With German bombers in short supply, the Luftwaffe changes tactics, concentrating on airfields in the South East in an attempt to disable Fighter Command.

31 AUGUST

The RAF suffers its heaviest losses to date, with six out of the seven main bases in South East England heavily damaged, restricting their ability to operate effectively.

The brave young pilots of the RAF, referred to as "The Few" by Churchill, outmatched the German Luftwaffe in a fierce battle in the skies during the late summer of 1940. But casualties were high and pilots had a life expectancy of just four to five weeks

Designated "RDF" or Radio Direction Finding, the new system's development was rapid, with a number of stations built during 1937 and 1938. And following the annexation of Czechoslovakia, the construction of such stations was accelerated, with compulsory land purchase and the use of wooden towers. Still officially referred to as "Air Ministry Experimental Stations", the buildings became operational in 1938, and began a 24-hour watch on Good Friday 1939.

The system was referred to as RDF until 1943, when the British adopted the term "Radar" – short for RAdio Detection

1940 *Battle of Britain timeline* cont'd

3 SEPTEMBER

Aircraft losses and varying results across the campaign force Hitler to postpone Operation Sea Lion until 21 September.

7 SEPTEMBER

Switching tactics again, the Luftwaffe launches attacks on London and other major cities, targeting aircraft factories and other strategic targets. The docks in the East End are assaulted by 348 bombers and 617 fighters.

15 SEPTEMBER

During a mission to bomb London, the Luftwaffe suffers huge losses when its planes are attacked by around 300 RAF fighters.

16 SEPTEMBER

Having failed to incapacitate Fighter Command, Goering turns to night bombing raids of British cities.

17 SEPTEMBER

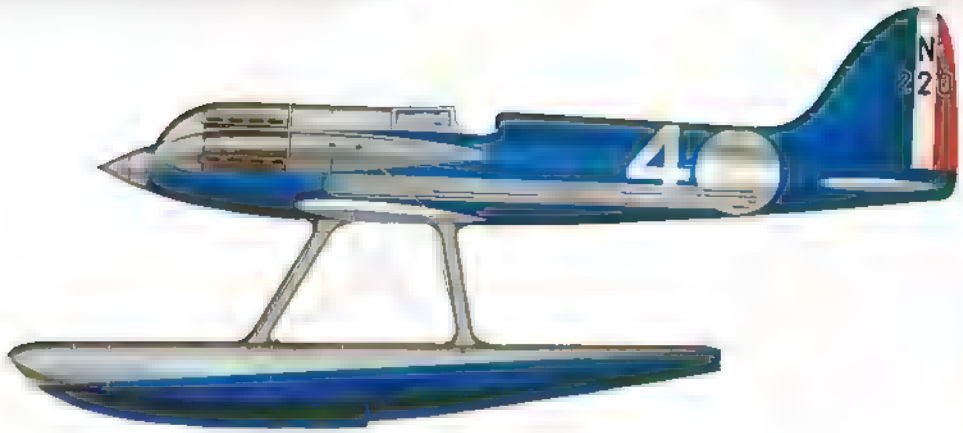
The German invasion of Britain, Operation Sea Lion, is postponed indefinitely.

29 OCTOBER

The final large-scale German bombing attack takes place, with two raids over London and three over Portsmouth.

31 OCTOBER

German attacks diminish as the weather worsens. Irregular bombing of London will continue for several years, but today is regarded as the final day of the Battle of Britain.



And Ranging – a term coined by the US Navy in 1940. In actual fact, radar was secretly being developed by numerous nations, including Germany. The difference being that British radar was properly integrated into a well-planned and efficient control and reporting system. German radar, by contrast, was limited to sea-surveillance use

Cessation of hostilities

At the end of the Great War, Britain had what was then the largest air force ever seen, with nearly 300,000 personnel and 22,000 aircraft. But within a year of cessation of hostilities, this had shrunk to just 31,500 personnel and 371 aircraft. Only the determination of Lord Trenchard, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, and his officers prevented complete disbandment, with the Army and Royal Navy absorbing planes and crew to reform their own air arms. It took several years for the RAF to define a role for itself, and as it did so it grew to meet new responsibilities, which initially consisted largely of monitoring and enforcing the armistice in Europe, and colonial policing.

Ironically, it was France that was seen as the major threat to Britain during the 1920s and early 1930s. This led to the creation of the RAF's Metropolitan Air Force in 1922, providing home air defence, and prompted Lord Trenchard to build a defensive belt of fighter aerodromes running from Devizes in Wiltshire to Cambridge, curving around London and roughly parallel to the coast.

The foundations for a control and reporting system were also laid, initially relying upon the newly formed Observer Corps, telephone lines and mobile sound locators. Apart from the introduction of radar and radio, and the extension and strengthening of the fighter belt, the system was recognisably similar to that of Fighter Command as it fought the Battle of Britain. The perception of France as a potential threat was extremely fortuitous, since the Luftwaffe mounted its Battle of Britain offensive from French aerodromes.

Expansion of the Air Force began gearing up in earnest in 1934, following the breakup of the League of Nations' Disarmament Conference. The first stage of British military expansion was little more than a high-profile attempt to impress the Germans with what amounted to little more than superficial changes and low-budget rearmament. Although the existence of Germany's own new air force was still supposedly secret, there was a suspicion that its government was gearing up for war of some sort.

Exhortation is seldom enough to achieve radical change, and various practical measures were put in place to achieve the necessary expansion of industrial output. A "Shadow Factory" scheme, announced in March 1936, built state-owned plants equipped and managed by non-aerospace industrial concerns. These manufactured products designed by aircraft or engine makers – usually components or sub-assemblies for final assembly elsewhere. The first Shadow Factories were run by motor car manufacturers, and produced components for Bristol Aero Engines Lord Nuffield's company, Wolseley, declined to participate unless it could build whole engines, which was not an option, and instead it was later given control of the Castle Bromwich factory, whose task would be to build whole Spitfires under the guidance of Vickers Supermarine

In the end, the Nuffield organisation proved unable to run the Castle Bromwich works effectively, and it was only after the transfer of the premises to Vickers Supermarine – nearly too late for the Battle of Britain – that the factory began churning out huge numbers of ▶

AT THE END OF THE GREAT WAR, BRITAIN HAD THE LARGEST AIR FORCE EVER SEEN, WITH 300,000 PERSONNEL AND 22,000 AIRCRAFT

Opposite page **A Spitfire Mk I. Based at Duxford, No.19 was the first squadron to rearm with the Spitfire, in the summer of 1938. The squadron number on the tail was soon replaced by fuselage code letters** *Above* **The Supermarine S.5 was a winner of the prestigious Schneider Trophy. It was an ancestor of the Spitfire**

WELL WORN
RAF CREW WERE ISSUED WITH LIFE JACKETS IN CASE THEY WERE SHOT DOWN. HOWEVER, IN 1940, THESE WERE STILL MANUALLY INFLATED – ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR A PILOT IN SHOCK.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding

One of the unsung heroes of the Battle of Britain is Air Chief Marshal, Sir Hugh Caswall Tremenheere Dowding, a complex and controversial character whose achievements were never properly recognised, and whose services were contemptuously dispensed with as soon as the battle was over.

Dowding – shy and humble yet also stubborn and difficult, and sometimes rude – was never an easy man to like. But he was known to care for his men and was prudent in his approach, rather than take unnecessary risks and possibly incur further losses.

His cautious attitude did not endear him to his peers. He clashed with General Hugh Trenchard during the First World War over a desire to rest weary pilots, Trenchard calling him a "dismal Jimmy obsessed by the fear of further casualties".

Dowding's brilliance was in his planning and logistics. He appreciated that the forthcoming battle would be one of attrition, and aimed to keep a mix of units and aircraft types in less dangerous areas, forming a ready-made reserve whose elements could be used to reinforce the frontline when squadrons became exhausted.

As the Battle of Britain were on, so Dowding's star waned. He lacked the kind of flamboyant, extrovert confidence that Churchill liked to see in his subordinates, and was just the kind of diffident pessimist that the Prime Minister could not abide.

Despite his success with Fighter Command, Dowding's critics grew, both within the RAF and in Parliament. Probably at the behest of Churchill, he was eventually dismissed on 17 November 1940. He was employed on a vital mission to the US, and later worked at the Air Ministry, finally retiring in 1942. But this was, at best, extremely shabby treatment for the man who had been the architect of success.

For his detailed planning and resource management of Britain's air defences, Dowding is now generally given the credit for the country's victory against the Luftwaffe.

Operation Sea Lion

Despite a concerted effort by the Germans to destroy the RAF, and its amassing of troops and barges at French ports, many historians now believe that Hitler had no real intention of invading Britain. The operation was deemed technically dubious and politically undesirable, and initially the plan was politely rejected by both the Luftwaffe and the Kriegsmarine.

Even if the RAF had been disabled, the Luftwaffe's performance against armed naval vessels was poor. With the might of the Royal Navy brought to bear – and with the Kriegsmarine severely depleted after the invasion of Norway – it's unlikely the invasion force would have made the crossing in any serious numbers.

Hitler's love-hate relationship with Britain – he admired the Empire and the British sense of honour – meant that he would have much preferred to work with the nation as allies, rather than control it as a dictator. It's possible that Britain's refusal to surrender after the fall of France in 1940 merely enraged the *Führer*, and that his directive to invade was no more than wishful thinking. Compared to the years of preparation required for the D-Day landings, it's clear that Germany never stood any real chance of taking the British Isles.

Below **The Messerschmitt Bf 110 was used during the Battle of Britain to escort and protect German bombers. However, the twin-engined fighter proved to be a disaster and had to be withdrawn because of its poor manoeuvrability and lack of speed, which made it vulnerable to the RAF's Spitfires and Hurricanes**

Spitfires. Had Vickers been in control of the plant from the beginning, many more fighter squadrons could have been Spitfire-equipped during the conflict.

Further expansion, authorised in February 1936, strengthened the RAF frontline further, and placed increased emphasis on the provision of fighters. Meanwhile, the new Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Edward Ellington, fought to ensure that his service was based on quality and not just quantity. Without an equivalent to Goering (who distributed top positions on the basis of patronage), RAF appointments during the late 1930s were on the whole sensible, and included the posting of Sir Hugh Dowding to command the newly formed Fighter Command in 1936. Its formation recognised the growing importance attached to Britain's air defences, though the highest priority and prestige were still attached to bombers. The new Fighter Command controlled two subordinate geographic groups – No.11 in the south and No.12 in the north. From November 1939, there was also a Balloon Command overseeing the many barrage balloons, while Anti-Aircraft Command was formed in April 1939 to control and coordinate searchlights and guns.

Under successive expansion programmes, the RAF's budget skyrocketed from £17.5million in 1934 to £27.6million in 1935, £50.7million in 1936, £56.5million in 1937 and, finally, £73.5million pounds in 1938. When war broke out, the programmes had really started to bear fruit: five Spitfire squadrons were operational or soon to become so, with a further 11 operational with the Hurricane. Fighter Command was becoming a modern force, though it remained below the 52 squadron total that Dowding had calculated as being the minimum necessary to protect the country from unescorted bomber attacks from German bases. Nor had Dowding anything like his required number of heavy AA guns (1,264), searchlights (4,700), AA guns for low-level air defence (300) or barrage balloons (400 for London alone). But things were getting better and there was, at last, the political will to do the job of defending Britain properly.

On his elevation to the post of Prime Minister, Churchill established a Ministry

CHURCHILL NEVER LOST HIS BOYISH SENSE OF EXCITEMENT AT THE PROSPECT OF HISTORY UNFOLDING

"We shall fight them on the beaches..." Churchill inspects a defensive post on the coast of North East England during the fateful summer of 1940

Above **The Hawker Hurricane, not the Spitfire, was to be the mainstay of the RAF during the Battle of Britain**

of Aircraft Production, and appointed the energetic Lord Beaverbrook to run it. The Shadow Factories established before the war were galvanised into action. Under the control of Vickers Supermarine, the Castle Bromwich works produced astonishing results. By 30 September, it had produced 125 Spitfire Mk IIs. Between June and October, Britain's monthly fighter production totals were 446, 496, 476, 467 and 469 – a total of 2,354 aircraft. At the start of the Battle of Britain, the Maintenance Units held 222 Hurricanes and 119 Spitfires in storage for issue as attrition replacements, or to equip new units. And at their very lowest, reserves never dropped below 78 Hurricanes and 38 Spitfires (equivalent to nine squadrons). By comparison, German industry managed to produce 14, 220, 173, 218 and 144 units between June and October – a total of just 919 aircraft.

Britain's speedy production of new fighters was augmented by a great effort in the rapid repair and return to service of damaged aircraft, such that 35 per cent of replacement planes delivered to frontline squadrons during the Battle of Britain were repaired rather than newly built. Some 60 per cent of the aircraft regarded as being unrepairable at station level were rebuilt to fly again by the revitalised Civilian Repair Organisation, which was rebuilding 160 aircraft per week by mid-July, and which delivered 4,196 aircraft between July and December. In some cases, aircraft were repaired on a "while you wait" basis, with Hurricanes flying into Henlow with battle damage, only to be repaired in time for their pilots to fly them again that day. The record time for changing both wings, and to fit and load all eight machine guns, on a Hurricane was one hour 55 minutes!

The battle begins

August 1940 was hot and sunny. Day after day, the cloudless skies of southern England, scarred by the vapour trails of the contestants, afforded observers a grandstand view of the dogfights taking place overhead. The RAF made full use of the advantage of surprise that radar allowed it. On 13 August, the Luftwaffe flew 1,485 sorties, yet failed to break the back of RAF resistance. German losses were three times greater – 45 aircraft shot down, compared to 13 RAF planes.

Churchill never lost his boyish sense of excitement at the prospect of history unfolding. News of how the aerial battle was progressing was brought to him at 10 Downing Street – but he wanted to witness the action for himself. On 15 August, he drove to Stanmore, north-west of London, to monitor the progress of the battle in the operations room of Fighter Command. The next day, he repeated the experience in the operations room of Fighter Command's 11 Group at Uxbridge in Middlesex.

The exploits of RAF pilots in the Battle of Britain, as it soon came to be known, assumed heroic proportions and, on 20 August, Churchill told the House of Commons, "The gratitude of every home in our island, in our empire, and indeed throughout the world... goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge of mortal danger, are turning the tide of war by their prowess and by their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

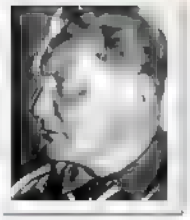
From 24 August, the Luftwaffe concentrated its attacks on airfields, aircraft factories, and communications and control centres, causing severe damage and putting many sector control stations out of action. By 5 September, the RAF had lost 450 aircraft, with 231 pilots killed or injured, and was on ▶

W FORCE OF MANY PILOTS FROM A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT NATIONS FOUGHT FOR THE RAF DURING THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN. THESE INCLUDED NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA.

Key figures

▶ WINSTON CHURCHILL
Churchill was 65 years old when he replaced Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister in May 1940, but he strode into the war effort with the zest of a schoolboy. An American who had visited London in 1940 reported, "Everywhere I went, people admired Churchill's energy, his courage and his singleness of purpose."

▶ ADOLF HITLER
Der Führer did not entirely dislike Britain, and admired its Empire and sense of honour. For this reason, he was happy to work alongside the nation rather than occupy it. However, Churchill's refusal to agree to an armistice forced Hitler's hand and he ordered the leader of his air force, Hermann Goering, to attack.

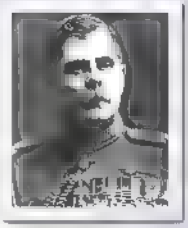


▶ HERMANN GOERING
A fighter pilot during the First World War, Goering joined the Nazi Party in 1922 and became its Minister of Aviation in 1933 (a position he held until 1945). As leader of the Luftwaffe, he was a supremely confident man and predicted that the Battle of Britain would be won in a matter of days.

▶ LORD BEAVERBROOK
Canadian-born Beaverbrook became the UK's Minister of Aircraft Production in 1940. "I needed his vital and vibrant energy," Churchill later admitted. Indeed, Beaverbrook was a brilliant man who managed to treble the production of British fighter planes in his first four months in office.

▶ HARRY WIMPERIS
Wimperis was the Director of Scientific Research at the UK's Air Ministry prior to the Second World War. It was in this role that he helped to develop the use of radar in the RAF. (He had already developed drift sight and course-setting bomb sight during the First World War, devices that revolutionised the art of bombing.)

▶ ROBERT WATSON-WATT
Working alongside Wimperis, Scottish-born scientist Watson-Watt was instrumental in the development of radar in Britain – it was he who suggested the potential for the use of radio beams in target detection. He was later knighted and awarded £50,000 for his contribution to the RAF's victory in the Battle of Britain.



▶ HUGH TRENCHARD
A Commander of the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War, Trenchard was later appointed Chief of the Air Staff and played a vital role in developing the RAF. Trenchard left his post in 1930, feeling that he'd achieved all he could. He was offered several high-ranking positions during WWII but declined them all.

▶ EDWARD ELLINGTON
Appointed Chief of the Air Staff in 1933, Ellington – like Trenchard before him – was instrumental in the growth of the RAF, implementing a plan to increase the number of its squadrons to 187 within three years, to counter the threat from Hitler's Germany. Ellington retired in April 1940, shortly after the start of WWII.

Luftwaffe bombers dropped 503 tonnes of high explosives and 881 incendiary canisters on Coventry during a ten-hour raid on 14 November 1940, devastating St Michael's Cathedral and the area around it

the brink of defeat. But total victory still eluded the Luftwaffe and, though critically damaged, the RAF was not ready to give up the fight.

From the start of the battle, Adolf Hitler and Hermann Goering had been looking for a single target whose destruction would achieve their ends quickly and decisively. Their first choice, the RAF, had proved tougher than expected, so they changed the focus of the attacks. On 7 September 1940, they unleashed the fury of the Luftwaffe on London in the first of a long series of assaults that became known as the Blitz. It was a tactical mistake, for it gave the RAF the time to recover their shattered airfields, which meant that British chances of survival improved. The Blitz began with daylight raids, but the Luftwaffe lost too many bombers by day and later switched to night raids. During one attack, an air raid shelter took a direct hit, killing 40 people inside. Churchill came to survey the ruins and found himself surrounded by a crowd of survivors and bereaved relatives. "We can take it! Give it 'em back!" they shouted, expressing their defiance with recently coined slogans. Churchill was so overwhelmed, he wept.

Above **Many families unable to erect custom-built air-raid shelters outdoors used indoor versions – this one has been adapted for use as a dining-room table. The effectiveness of such shelters was limited, especially if the bomb was a direct hit**

As the raids intensified, 10 Downing Street became vulnerable. On 16 September, Churchill and his staff moved into a specially fortified set of rooms in the Board of Trade Building opposite St James's Park. The rooms, which became known as the Number 10 Annexe, were strengthened inside by steel girders and outside by steel shutters. The shutters were closed as soon as the air-raid siren sounded, in preparation for attack. The annexe remained Churchill's HQ for the rest of the war. In the underground basement, the Central War Rooms – later known as the Cabinet War Rooms – were built for meetings of Churchill's War Cabinet and the Defence Committee.

Churchill refused to remain inside his fortified bunker and spent nights watching from the roof of the government buildings in Whitehall – with searchlights scouring the skies overhead, the thunder of anti-aircraft guns, and the whistle and roar of bombs descending and exploding. A year earlier, he had believed that mercy should soften the brutalities of war – "God forbid we should ever part company with that," he had commented – but the sight of London ablaze around

him hardened his heart. As his secretary John Colville noted in his diary on 19 September, the PM was "becoming less and less benevolent towards the Germans... and talks about castrating the lot!" By the time the Blitz ended in May 1941, the Luftwaffe had extended the bombing beyond London to Coventry, Liverpool and other industrial cities. In just under nine months, more than 43,000 civilians were killed, another 51,000 seriously injured, and large areas of the bombed cities lay in ruins.

On 15 September 1940 – only eight days after the bombing of London began – the RAF brought an end to the Battle of Britain. That day, some 500 Luftwaffe aircraft crossed the English coast but only about 70 managed to reach their targets in central London. According to RAF statistics, 174 enemy aircraft were destroyed that day, and another nine were brought down by anti-aircraft fire. The British lost 25 aircraft and 13 pilots.

The same day, RAF bombers joined forces with Royal Navy ships to destroy some 200 barges moored along the coast of northern France, in preparation for an invasion. Gradually, the Luftwaffe's massed daylight raids tapered off, with the last of them taking place on 30 September. The Germans had failed to take control of the air and, without it, no invasion of England could succeed.

On 17 September, Hitler suspended Operation Sea Lion indefinitely. Britain was out of danger, but Churchill warned against a lapse in vigilance. "Do not let us be lured into supposing that the danger is past," he told the House of Commons. "On the contrary, unwearying vigilance and the swift and steady strengthening of our force by land, sea and air... must be at all costs maintained. Because we feel easier in ourselves and see our way more clearly through our difficulties and dangers than we did some months ago; because foreign countries, friends or foes, recognise the giant, enduring, resilient strength of Britain and the British Empire, do not let us dull for one moment the sense of the awful hazard in which we stand... We must be united, we must be undaunted, we must be inflexible. Our qualities and deeds must burn and glow through the gloom of Europe until they become the veritable beacon of its salvation."

The aftermath

The RAF's success against the Luftwaffe proved to be a huge turning point in the war. Churchill's dogged determination, together with the triumph of the Battle of Britain, combined to make a deep impression on President Franklin D Roosevelt. He was now willing to make a deal with Churchill: in exchange for the bases the United States needed in the Caribbean, he agreed to supply the 50 American destroyers Churchill wanted to counteract the threat posed by German submarines. The Destroyers for Bases agreement was announced in September 1940. For Churchill, this was a significant achievement, as it symbolised the beginning of an alliance between Britain and the United States.

Then, in the summer of 1941, Churchill was distracted from criticism at home by a new development: the Russo-German non-aggression pact, signed in 1939, was about to be torn up. For some time, the Germans had been amassing troops, tanks and armament on their border with Russia. Now, the alliances in the Balkans and the conquests of Greece and Yugoslavia came into focus: the Germans had been protecting their southern flank as a prelude to their invasion of Russia.

At 4am on 22 June 1941, around 150 German divisions crossed into Russian territory along a line stretching nearly 1,250 miles northwards from the Black Sea to the Arctic Circle. Britain was no longer fighting alone. Yet, if the Soviets lost – as Churchill believed they would – it could give Hitler the chance to concentrate the whole military might of Germany on another invasion of Britain.

IN JUST UNDER NINE MONTHS, MORE THAN 43,000 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, ANOTHER 51,000 INJURED, AND LARGE AREAS OF CITIES LAY IN RUINS

TRIBUTE TO THE FEW
THERE IS A SPECIAL BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL AT CAPEL-LE-FERNE IN KENT. ITS WEBSITE CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.BATTLEOFBRITAINMEMORIAL.ORG

The Battle of Britain in numbers

During the conflict, both the British and German governments exaggerated the other's losses. The RAF was reported to have shot down nearly 2,700 planes, while the German propaganda machine stated that the RAF had lost 3,000 – more than the RAF's entire fleet.

The cost in man and machinery during the Battle of Britain is hard to determine, with various reports citing wildly different figures. The numbers below are based on the best available sources...

RAF	LUFTWAFFE
537 aircrew killed	967 aircrew captured
422 aircrew wounded	2,662 aircrew killed
1,100 aircraft destroyed	1,900 aircraft destroyed
67,600 sorties flown	36,500 sorties flown

This feature was edited by Steve Jarratt using material from two books: *The Battle of Britain* by Jon Lake and *Churchill* by Brenda Ralph Lewis. Both are published by Amber Books and are available from www.amberbooks.co.uk

During his visit to North America in 1941, Churchill addressed a joint session of the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa on 30 December. In his speech, he referred to the gloomy predictions made by French Generals in 1940, that, "in three weeks, England will have her neck wrung like a chicken". He retorted: "Some chicken, some neck!"

TOOLS of the TRADE

US MARINE VIETNAM WAR KIT

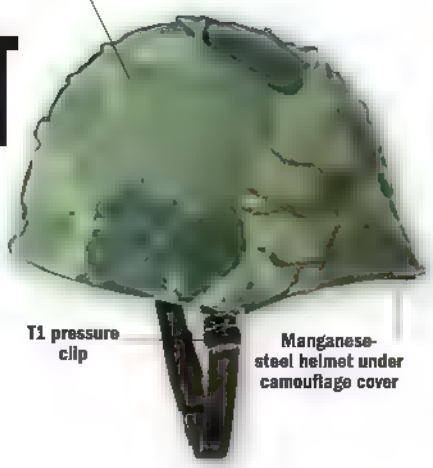
Stifling heat and constant rain rendered heavy uniforms un-usable in Asia. So a **new, lightweight outfit** was issued to alleviate the Marines' load

When US Marines were first deployed to Vietnam in 1965, they were ill-equipped for an environment in which terrible heat exhausted the infantrymen and constant rain ruined their kit and uniforms. With its men becoming increasingly demoralised (they would already have been aware of the growing dissent towards the war back home), the US Government issued a new, lightweight, camouflage uniform in 1966-67, replacing the standard, heavy, olive-green Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform. The hazards of patrols and sweeps in Vietnam – where ambushes and booby trap devices inflicted a heavy toll of casualties – meant that personal protection was of high priority, hence the wearing of flak jackets and the eventual adoption of reinforced jungle boots

▶ M1 HELMET

Date **1960s**
Origin **US**
Material **Manganese steel**

The M1 used in Vietnam was a slightly modified version of the famous Second World War helmet. It featured a pressure clip, which was introduced to reduce the risk of choking.



▶ COAT TROPICAL WR CLASS II

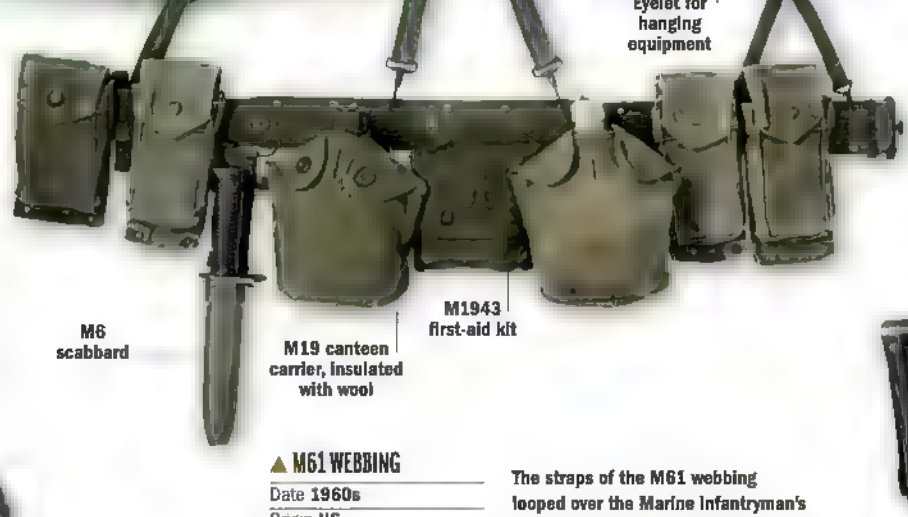
Date **1960s**
Origin **US**
Materials **Cotton, poplin**

The tight weave on this shirt made it wind-resistant and almost waterproof. The fabric was found to offer a good mix of breathability and defence against biting insects.

▼ JUNGLE BOOTS

Date **1960s**
Origin **US**
Materials **Leather, canvas, nylon, rubber**

These tropical-combat (or jungle) boots were among the most common types issued to US Marines. Their hard-rubber soles were directly moulded on, since stitching tended to rot in the hot climate. From 1967, Panama-sole boots were issued, with an embedded steel plate to protect against punji-stick booby traps.



▲ M61 WEBBING

Date **1960s**
Origin **US**
Material **Nylon**

The straps of the M61 webbing looped over the Marine infantryman's shoulders to help take the weight of the equipment hung around his waistbelt.

This feature is an edited extract from *The Military History Book*, published in the UK by Dorling Kindersley, RRP £30

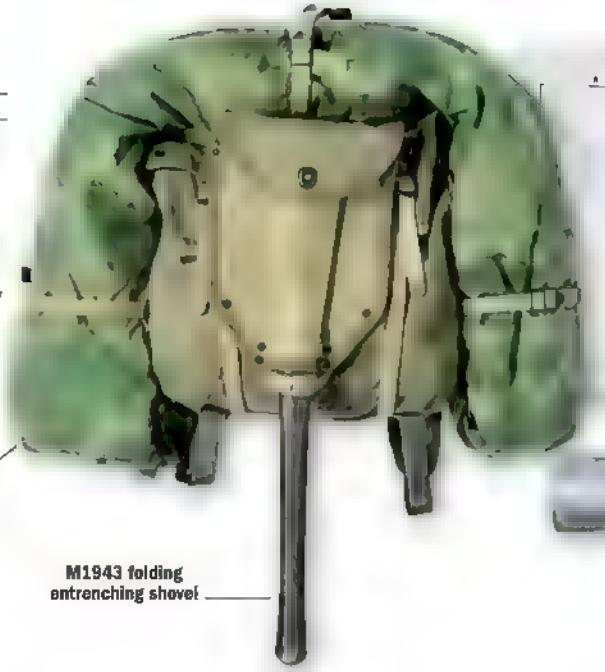
▶ 1941 PACK

Date **1941**
Origin **US**
Material **Nylon, cotton**

This small pack was used to hold rations and personal effects, while the rolled sheet of camouflage canvas formed half of a "pup" tent when joined to a second sheet.

Mitchell-pattern camouflage issued only to Marine Corps

M1943 folding entrenching shovel



▲ **MAP OF SAIGON BASE AREA**

▲ **PARACHUTE FLARE**

▲ **ANGLE-HEAD FLASHLIGHT**

■ M1955 ARMOURED VEST

Date **1960s**
Origin **US**
Material **Fibreglass, plastic, nylon**

The Doron-armoured (fibreglass and plastic) vest – heavy and unsuitable for tropical conditions – would have little chance of stopping a bullet, but it was an effective defence against shrapnel.

▼ M14 RIFLE

Date **1959**
Origin **US**
Weight **4.4kg**
Barrel **55.8cm**
Calibre **7.62mm**

Designed to use the then-standard NATO round, the US M14 replaced the old M1 rifle. The M14 possessed a fully automatic fire capability and was equipped with a larger magazine. By the late 1960s, it was replaced by the M16.

Rear sight

Flash-hider

20-round detachable magazine

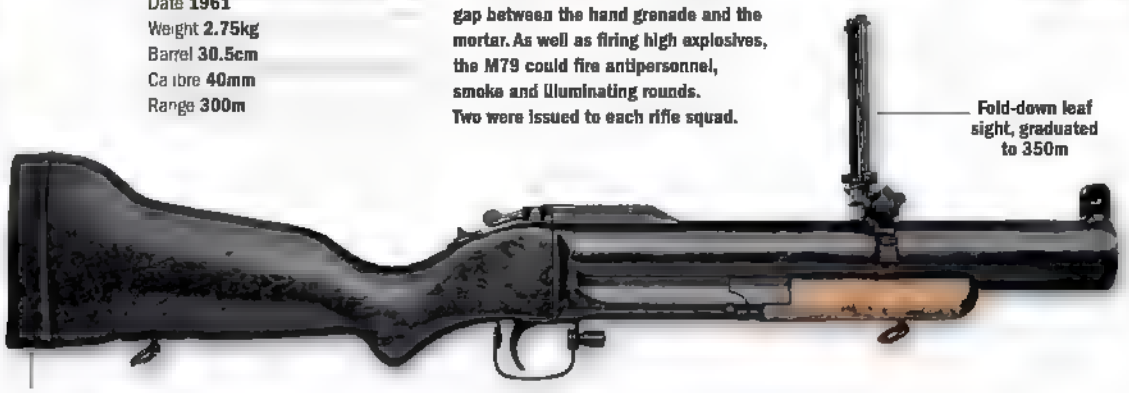
Safety-pin ring

▼ M79 GRENADE-LAUNCHER

Date **1961**
Weight **2.75kg**
Barrel **30.5cm**
Calibre **40mm**
Range **300m**

With a maximum range of 300m, the M79 grenade-launcher bridged the gap between the hand grenade and the mortar. As well as firing high explosives, the M79 could fire antipersonnel, smoke and illuminating rounds. Two were issued to each rifle squad.

Fold-down leaf sight, graduated to 350m



Rubber pad absorbs recoil

▲ M67 GRENADES

Date **1960s**
Origin **US**
Weight **0.45kg**
Length **89mm**

The M67 "baseball" grenade had a notched-wire interior designed to fragment into many small pieces on the detonation of its high-explosive charge.

◀ M60 MACHINE-GUN

Date **1963**
Origin **US**
Weight **10.51kg**
Barrel **59.9cm**
Calibre **7.62mm**

The M60 was the US example of the general-purpose machine gun – inheriting some features from the German MG42. It was widely used by the US Marine Corps in Vietnam and is still in service today.

Feed cover

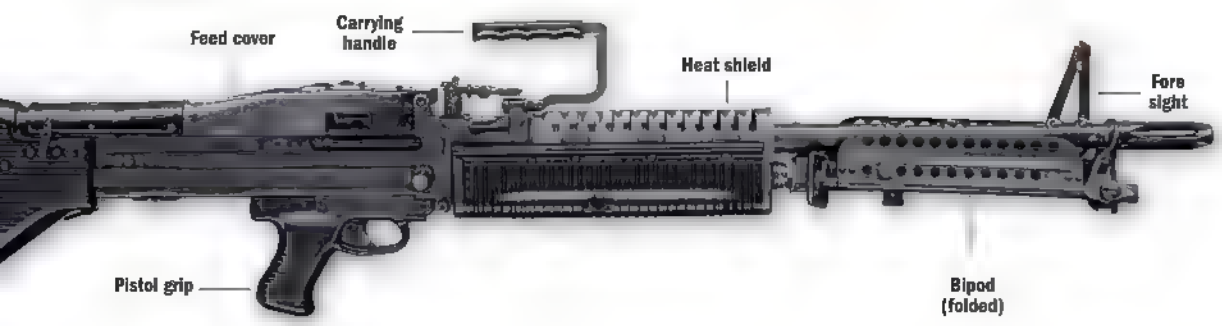
Carrying handle

Heat shield

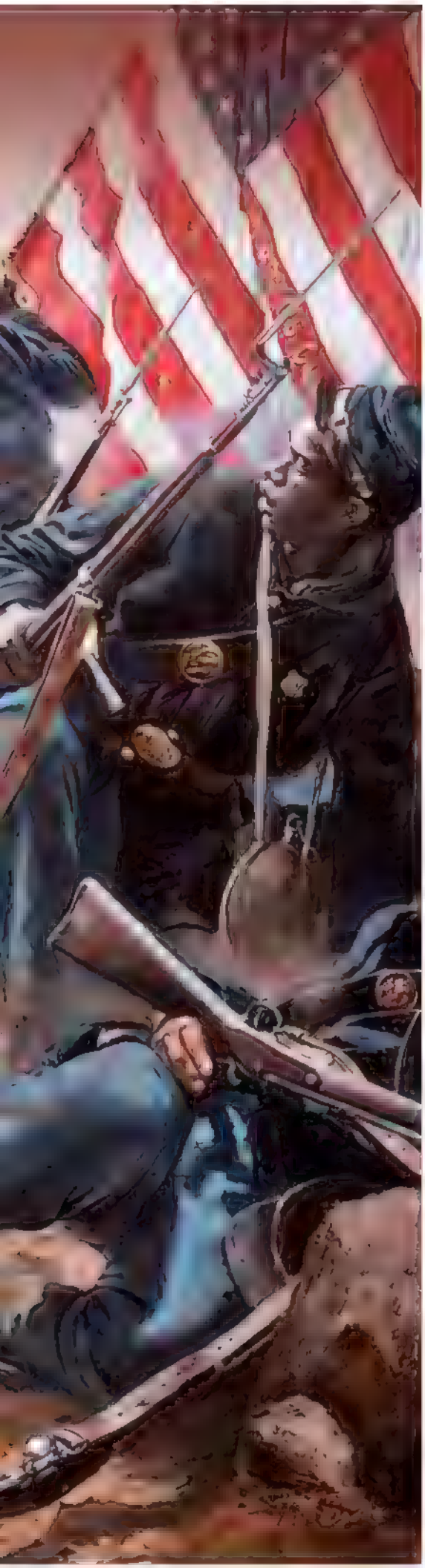
Fore sight

Pistol grip

Bipod (folded)



This painting by Don Troiani shows Confederate troops under General Wilcox's division attacking Union troops (foreground) at the battle of the Crater, Petersburg, 1864. Union troops became trapped in the crater and were massacred in what Mahone later described as a "turkey shoot". The Confederates reported losses of 1,032 while the Union casualties were estimated at 3,798



Great Battles

PETERSBURG

American Civil War: Having failed to capture Richmond and defeat the Confederate army of Northern Virginia during the Overland Campaign of 1864, General Ulysses S Grant turned his attention to the city of Petersburg, a vital transportation hub. Taking this would isolate Richmond and enable the Union army to launch a decisive attack on the Confederate capital…

BY THE END OF MARCH 1865, the city of Petersburg had been under siege for more than eight months. In scenes that many historians have likened to the conditions in western Europe during the First World War, the Confederate and Union armies had settled into huge static trench systems, frequently probing the other's lines with raids and other minor actions. The Confederate commander in Virginia, General Robert E Lee, realised that his strategic options were contracting. The siege was steadily eating into the city's supplies. Supply lines were open – particularly the Southside Railroad that ran into Petersburg from the west – but it was mainly the winter weather that had prevented the Union troops under Lieutenant-General Ulysses S Grant from moving against these. With the improvement of weather in spring, time was running out. Furthermore, the extended length of the Confederate lines – around 60km (37 miles) from Petersburg to Richmond – meant that Lee's troops were, in many places, spread unacceptably thin, with gaps of several metres between each man enforced in places.

GENERAL ROBERT E LEE HAD A PLAN BUT IT REQUIRED A HEAVY DOSE OF OPTIMISM TO BELIEVE IN IT

Lee did have a plan but it required a heavy dose of optimism to believe in it. If he could break his forces out of Petersburg, he might be able to drive to the south, resupplying on the way, and eventually join up with the Confederate troops of General Joseph E Johnston in North Carolina. If this could be achieved, maybe their combined forces would be able to defeat Major-General William Tecumseh Sherman's units in the Carolinas, then return north to battle with Grant on a more equal footing. ▶

The facts

WHO Five Union corps under Lieutenant-General Ulysses S Grant, totalling over 97,000 troops, launched a final attack against General Robert E Lee's thinly spread 45,000 Confederate troops around Petersburg, Virginia

WHAT The battle was the culmination of a long Union siege of Petersburg. The Union forces attacked all along the Confederate line, with Sixth Corps making the decisive break south of the city.

WHERE The battle lines ran from east of Petersburg, to the south of the city, and then out west to positions around Five Forks.

WHEN 2 April 1865

WHY Grant was determined to conclude the Petersburg siege, and to take advantage of the Union forces' victory at Five Forks the previous day.

OUTCOME The Confederate defences around Petersburg were shattered, and General Lee ordered his troops to evacuate the city. Within days, the Civil War was over.

The Battle of Five Forks was a critical defeat for the Confederates that destabilised their defence of Petersburg. Here, Union cavalry charge a line of Confederate riflemen

As it turned out, it was Grant who took the initiative in the Virginia theatre. As spring approached, he diligently reinforced his positions, which snaked in a long line from east of Petersburg, ran south around the city, then ran out west, parallel with the Hatcher's Run River. Significant additions to his aggregate strength were Major-General Philip H Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah and Major-General Edward OC Ord's Army of the James. With a bolstered force, Grant now launched a new series of offensives aimed at breaking the Confederate hold on Petersburg.

Treacherous terrain

Back in February 1864, Federal troops had carried out several assaults south-west of Petersburg around Hatcher's Run, attempting to consolidate their advantage over the Confederate supply route along the Boydton Plank Road. On 29 March, they renewed their efforts in the area, using Sheridan's cavalry units and Fifth Corps infantry under Major General Gouverneur K Warren to attack towards Dinwiddie Court House.

Although the Federal troops had a numerical advantage, the Confederates were obdurate in defence. Sheridan's attempts to outflank them were stopped by defences at White Oak Road, Boydton Road, Dinwiddie Court House, Crow's House and Hatcher's Run. Even so, the Confederate commanding officer in the region – the much-criticised Major-General George Pickett – understood that his defences would eventually crumble, so he pulled his troops back to the Five Forks crossroads.

Pickett actually wanted to retreat further, but Lee insisted that he hold the strategically important crossroads, stating clearly: "Hold Five Forks at all hazards. Protect the road to Ford's Depot and prevent Union forces from striking the Southside Railroad. Regret exceedingly your forces' withdrawal and your inability to hold the advantage you had gained."

Pickett ordered his troops to dig in and await the inevitable attack – which came on 1 April. Sheridan and Warren were again partnered for the operation, Sheridan using cavalry to make a frontal pinning action while Warren's cavalry were sent on a flanking manoeuvre. The Union assault was poorly executed. Union intelligence had marked the Confederate defences as beginning further east than they actually did. This, combined with treacherous wooded terrain, served to slow and confuse manoeuvring by the frontal divisions of Warren's Fifth Corps.

In the end, Sheridan's judicious use of Warren's reserve division permitted the attack to go in, and the Confederate left flank was quickly punctured. (Pickett was actually

THE LOSS OF FIVE FORKS WAS A CRITICAL BLOW FOR LEE'S DEFENCE OF PETERSBURG

3.2km – two miles – away, having a meal with fellow generals, blissfully unaware that his troops were battling for their lives without central leadership.) In the end, Five Forks was abandoned, with 2,950 Southern casualties against 840 Union losses, although the fight had been hard for the Union (Sheridan relieved Warren of his command), and the Confederates re-established and held a new line of defence.

The loss of Five Forks was a critical blow for Lee's defence of Petersburg, as the Federal forces had broken the main Confederate line and were moving inexorably closer to the Southside Railroad. Lee recognised that the Petersburg-Richmond line would eventually crumble, so he telegraphed Richmond, advising that the authorities there make preparations to

Union Zouaves display their muskets, complete

abandon the city. The defence of Petersburg was also acknowledged as unsustainable, a point that the Union forces would prove on 2 April.

Dogmatic defence

Grant understood that the Union victory at Five Forks presented him with the opportunity to take Petersburg with the 50,000 troops he had deployed there. Lee's line had been thinned by losses and redeployments, and the move towards retreat would leave his forces tactically vulnerable. Five corps held the Union lines around Petersburg. The eastern side of the lines was manned by Ninth Corps under Major-General John G Parke, while next to him was a southern front held by Sixth Corps, under the command of Major-General Horatio G Wright. Major-General John Gibbon's 24th Corps, Major-General AA Humphreys' Second Corps and Fifth Corps, now under Major-General Charles Griffin, ran the Union lines out to positions at Five Forks

Grant planned a major assault along the entire length of the line, with the heaviest weight of attack concentrated in Wright's sector Start time for the operation was just before first light at 4am, but at 2am Union artillery conducted a night bombardment of Confederate lines to mask the movement of around 14,000 men into positions in no-man's land.

At 4am, the first Union troops surged towards the Confederate lines. Although the actions basically occurred simultaneously, it's useful to separate them out into their respective events. Looking first to the east of Petersburg, Ninth Corps was faced by three divisions of the Confederate Second Corps – some 3,600 men along approximately 6km (four miles) of front. Second Corps' strength had been reduced by one division through Lee's redeployments, yet, despite the weakening, the line still boasted some powerful defences, particularly the three-sided Fort Mahone in the far south of the sector. In fact, such was the strength of the defences that Parke had even requested his portion of the assault be cancelled. Nevertheless, at 4.30am, his attack began, using three divisions. Parke initially met with success, the Union troops capturing three Confederate gun batteries and making some inroads into the Fort Mahone defences. However, the complex of Confederate trenches and defences quickly broke up the Union manoeuvres, as did a dogmatic defence by veteran troops of Lieutenant-General John B Gordon's Second Corps

By midday, Ninth Corps' position was becoming desperate, and reinforcements were requested. These helped contain a vigorous counter-attack by Gordon at around 3pm, but only just. In fact, only news of a Sixth Corps ▶

FIGHTING FOR THE FORT

A dramatic bird's-eye view of the defences at Fort Steadman, 25 March 1865. A daring Confederate assault had taken the fort, but a massive Union counter-attack reclaimed it the same day. The fruitless action cost the Confederate forces 5,000 men

Great Battles

PETERSBURG
2 APRIL, 1865

PETERSBURG

5 To the west of the city, the Union Second Corps defeats six Confederate divisions. Almost all parts of the rebel lines have now collapsed, and the evacuation of Petersburg is ordered.

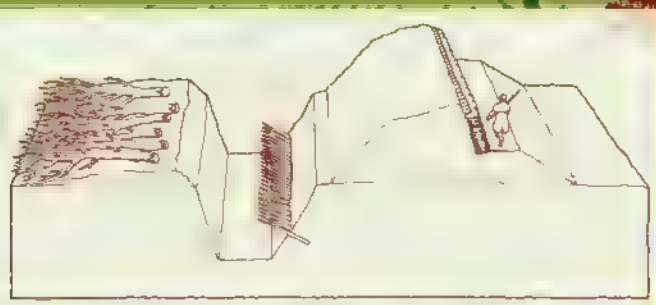
OPPOSING FORCES

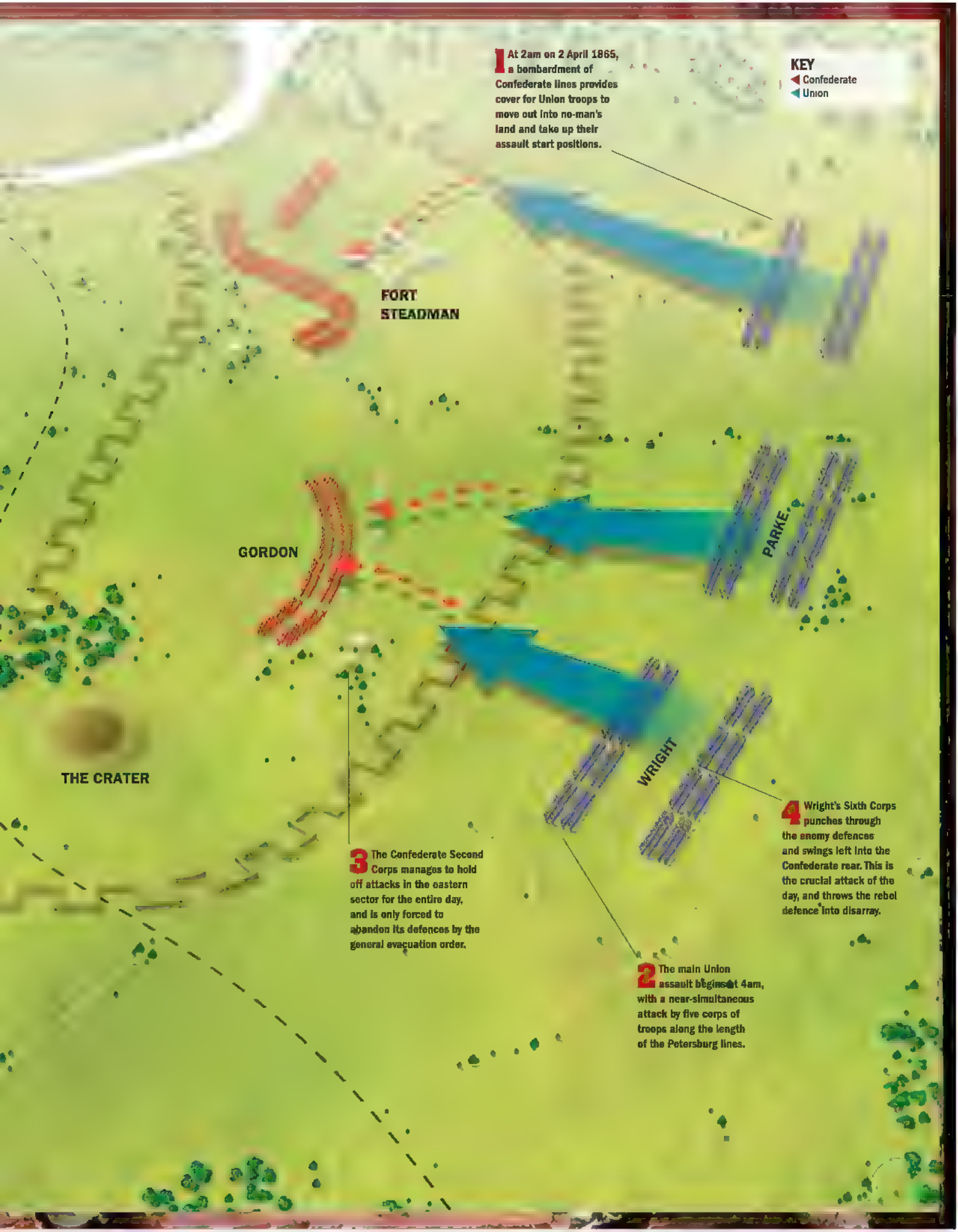
Union
Five corps around Petersburg
Total **90,000**

Confederate
Mixed units dug into defensive earthworks
Total **45,000**

STERN DEFENCE

A typical earthwork fortification of the Civil War, such as was found around Petersburg in 1865. These defences were designed to break up the impetus and formations of enemy attacks, while providing superb protection from rifle and cannon fire.




1 At 2am on 2 April 1865, a bombardment of Confederate lines provides cover for Union troops to move out into no-man's land and take up their assault start positions.
KEY
Confederate
Union
FORT STEADMAN
GORDON
PARKE
THE CRATER
WRIGHT
3 The Confederate Second Corps manages to hold off attacks in the eastern sector for the entire day, and is only forced to abandon its defences by the general evacuation order.
4 Wright's Sixth Corps punches through the enemy defences and swings left into the Confederate rear. This is the crucial attack of the day, and throws the rebel defence into disarray.
2 The main Union assault begins at 4am, with a near-simultaneous attack by five corps of troops along the length of the Petersburg lines.

breakthrough to the west prevented Gordon from making another, potentially successful attempt to eject the Union troops from the lines. The day ended with 1,700 Union casualties among Ninth Corps, and Gordon's Confederates moving back only because of the Petersburg evacuation order

Ambushed and shot

The Sixth Corps attack was the nexus of victory at Petersburg on 2 April. Wright's front faced the critical Boydton Plank Road. Wright had formed much of the corps into a powerful wedge, aiming to crack open the Confederate line with a powerful concentration of force at a single point, the positions around Fort Welch. It was a precarious formation, one that risked decimation by enemy artillery, but if it could be launched with surprise, its effect would be decisive.

The attack went in at 4.40am, assaulting over a 10km (six-mile) front against six brigades of Confederate troops between Fort Howard and Peebles Farm. In only half an hour, Sixth Corps smashed open the enemy lines, the wedge formation first cutting into, then through, the North Carolina Brigade. With the line pierced, Sixth Corps then swung to the left to support the Union Second Corps attack from the south The chaos unleashed in the Confederate rear was profound, aided by the fact that some isolated Union units even fought as far forward as the Southside Railroad. For a day's-end casualty figure of 2,100, Sixth Corps had inflicted around 5,000 dead and wounded One of the Confederate dead was Major General AP Hill, who was ambushed and shot while riding along the lines of battle.

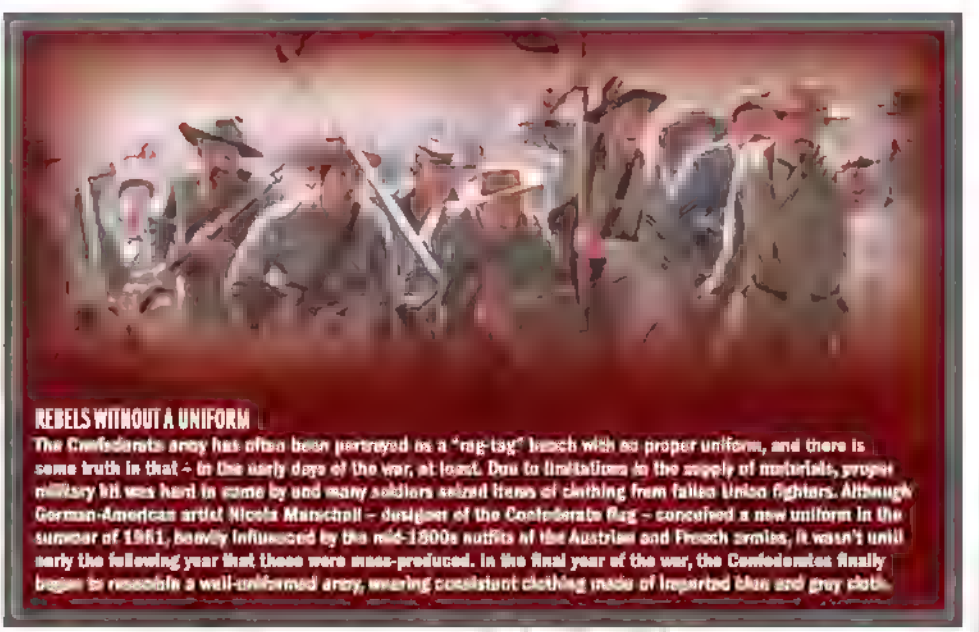
The Sixth Corps attack destabilised the entire Confederate line, and in the west the rebels rushed to reinforce the last major strongpoints protecting the defences of the Boydton Plank Road - Fort Gregg and Fort Whitworth (the latter also known as Fort Baldwin). These objectives were the province of General John Gibbon's 24th Corps, plus one division from 25th Corps – 5,000 troops compared to the 300 defenders. Were they to overrun the two forts, the Federal forces would be able to continue north to the Appomattox River and take the bridges that were vital to Petersburg's resupply and evacuation.

The Union assault swung into action at approximately 1pm, but it soon met with unexpectedly fierce resistance from both garrisons (the two forts could also support one another with fire, and further fire assistance came from a battery on the Dimmock Line). Eventually, however, sheer weight of numbers and the collapse of Confederate ammunition supplies carried the day, and the Union troops managed to clamber into Fort Gregg's interior and take the surrender. Witnessing this, Fort Whitworth's garrison then evacuated their stronghold. Occupying the two forts had not been without cost for the Federals, however: 24th Corps had suffered 122 fatalities, with another 200 wounded

IF THE FORMATION COULD BE LAUNCHED WITH SURPRISE, ITS EFFECT WOULD BE DECISIVE

Further to the south-west, fighting was also heavy along the Boydton Line, down to Hatcher's Run and beyond, down the White Oak Road Line, defended by six divisions of Confederates under Major General Harry Heth against the Union Second Corps. Humphreys took this corps into the attack around 8am, buoyed by news of Wright's breakthrough, and it only took one hour to put the Confederates into a retreat (by this stage, Heth's men also had advance units of Wright's corps pressing on their left flank). Only some subsequent poor manoeuvring on the part

Union troops at Petersburg. Although the battle resulted in a Union victory, it still cost the Federal army around 3,500 casualties. Confederate artillery fire using grape shot was particularly lethal among the tightly packed ranks of the attackers



REBELS WITHOUT A UNIFORM

The Confederate army has often been portrayed as a "rag-tag" bunch with no proper uniform, and there is some truth in that – in the early days of the war, at least. Due to limitations in the supply of materials, proper military kit was hard to come by and many soldiers seized items of clothing from fallen Union fighters. Although German-American artist Nicola Marschall – designer of the Confederate flag – conceived a new uniform in the summer of 1861, heavily influenced by the mid-1800s outfits of the Austrian and French armies, it wasn't until early the following year that these were mass-produced. In the final year of the war, the Confederates finally began to resemble a well-uniformed army, wearing consistent clothing made of imported blue and grey cloth.

of the Union forces allowed Heth's soldiers to escape complete destruction.

Rather than pursue the Rebel troops up the Claiborne Road, Humphreys was ordered to move to support the push on Petersburg itself, even though his forward division, led by Major-General Nelson A Miles, was battling the Confederates around Sutherland Station. Humphreys responded by leaving this division with its present action, and moving his other two divisions up towards the city. However, Miles actually found himself in trouble battling the veteran Confederates, and Humphreys had to make an about-turn to come to his rescue.

Only in the late afternoon did the Confederate defence finally collapse, when the shattered troops moved up to the Appomattox to begin their retreat into Petersburg itself. By this time, they were joined by men retreating back from the Five Forks area. Some uncertain decisions by Sheridan meant that Fifth Corps was deployed ineffectively, and as the Confederate cavalry of Major-General Fitzhugh Lee fought several very effective delaying actions, a large number of infantry were able to make their escape along the Appomattox

Suffered for victory

By the end of 2 April 1865, the Battle of Petersburg was conclusively won for the Union. Nonetheless, Grant did not make a final drive into the city itself, but essentially just placed a noose around the city's neck. There were several reasons for this policy. First, the Union troops had suffered for victory, with around 3,500 casualties against the Confederates' estimated 4,250. Factor in the mental condition of men who had been in action for over 16 hours, and the Union troops were in no condition for a final epic assault. Furthermore, the Confederates had received some reinforcements in the form of a division from First Corps.

More importantly, Grant probably understood that the Confederate defence of Petersburg was, in any case, untenable. Such was indeed the case – as early as 10am, Lee had sent a telegram to Richmond saying that he would not be able to hold the lines, and that an evacuation must take place. By 8pm, this evacuation had begun and, overnight, around 30,000 troops pulled out of the city, to endure further ordeals over the coming days. The fall of Petersburg meant, by implication, the fall of Richmond and the effective end of the Civil War

This feature is an edited extract from the book *Battles of the Civil War* by Chris McNab, published by Amber Books. It is available from www.amberbooks.co.uk

INSIDE

CONWY CASTLE

Edward of Westminster was engaged in the Seventh Crusade in North Africa when news reached him of his father Henry III's death. Instantly proclaimed Edward I King of England, he set off on his journey home. However, with the country enjoying relative stability, and still suffering from the after-effects of an assassination attempt, he took a leisurely detour through Italy and France. En route, he had an audience with Pope Gregory X and even suppressed a rebellion in Gascony.

The new King was crowned on 19 August 1274, upon which he set about restoring order after the shambolic and unpopular reign of his father. But no sooner had Edward acceded to the throne than trouble began brewing in Wales.

A patchwork of principalities and lordships, Wales had been in flux for hundreds of years, with power ebbing and flowing between the Welsh and the English. In 1274, relations between Edward and the then-Prince of Wales, Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, broke down. Llywelyn's younger brother Dafydd – in league with Gruffydd ap Gwenwynwyn of Powys – had plotted Llywelyn's demise. Although no assassination attempt took place, their plan was discovered and the pair defected to the English. With Edward harbouring his assailants, Llywelyn refused to pay homage to the King. Then, to make matters worse, Edward discovered that Llywelyn was planning to marry Eleanor, daughter of Simon de Montfort, the French nobleman who had led the rebellion against his father.

Edward was quick to act, marching into Wales with a force of 15,000 men, including 9,000 from South Wales who held no allegiance to Llywelyn. Although no major conflict took

RATHER THAN SEND A PARTY TO QUELL ANOTHER UPRISING, EDWARD DECIDED TO CONQUER WALES ONCE AND FOR ALL

place, faced with superior numbers – plus the possibility of bombardment by the King's navy – Llywelyn had little choice but to surrender. He retained his position as Prince of Wales but ceded important territory to Edward, who now enjoyed unprecedented influence in the region.

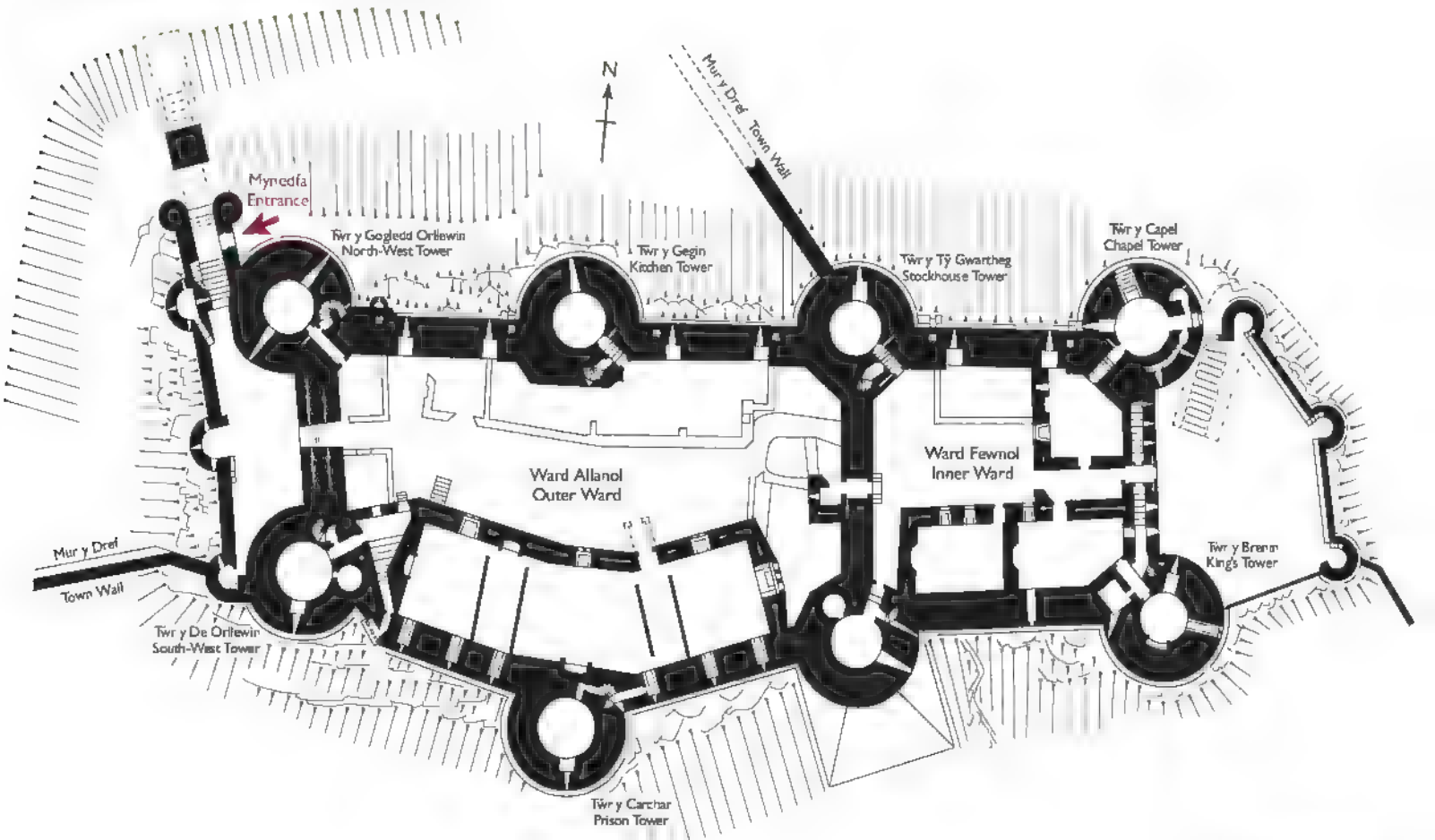
Following the Treaty of Aberconwy in 1277, Edward gained control of the bulk of Wales, either directly or via English protectorates under the control of Dafydd ap Gruffydd, the Marcher Lordships and other Royal vassals. Only the western part of Gwynedd and Anglesey remained under Llywelyn's purview.

Five years later, it was Dafydd who railed against the English. Although he'd once fought alongside Edward against his own brother, and had been given manors in both Norfolk and Northampton, he decided to heed the growing call for Welsh independence. On Palm Sunday 1282, Dafydd led an assault on Hawarden Castle, while his forces also attacked Oswestry and Aberystwyth.

In November of that year, Edward offered the Gruffydd brothers terms – Dafydd was to go on crusade, while Llywelyn was offered lands in England and an Earldom. Foolishly, they turned the King down. Edward, tall and severe with a fiery temper, was not one to be crossed. Rather than send a party to quell another irksome uprising, he decided to conquer Wales once and for all. He attacked with three armies, leading one himself into North Wales, consisting of 8,000 men and 750 cavalry. Roger Mortimer, 1st Baron of Wigmore, attacked in mid-Wales, and Gilbert de Clare, 7th Earl of Gloucester, in the south. However, both of Edward's commanders would die in combat within months of the campaign, and initially the Welsh enjoyed some success.

The tide turned when, in December 1282, Llywelyn was lured into a trap and killed at the Battle of Orewin Bridge. Dafydd stepped into his long-awaited role as Prince of Wales, but lacked the support his brother had enjoyed. Edward seized the opportunity, raising a new army ▶

Plan of Conwy Castle



and marching into Snowdonia. In January 1283, Dolwyddelan Castle fell after a surprisingly short siege, and Dafydd fled to the countryside with Edward's forces in pursuit. The English – now swelled with mercenaries from Gascony – crossed the Menai and destroyed Bangor, before marching on Caernarfon and Harlech.

Determined to capture the back-stabbing Dafydd, Edward deployed some 7,000 troops to find and detain him. Castell y Bere was besieged and fell in April, and, although Dafydd had fled again, the net was closing in. He was eventually caught on 22 June 1284, hiding in a bog near Bera Mountain. He'd been betrayed by his own men.

The younger Gruffydd was tried that October, found guilty of "high treason" – the first instance of this crime – and condemned to death. (Poor Dafydd also suffered the ignominy of being the first person on record to be hung, drawn and quartered.) With the end of the Gruffydd line came the end of any meaningful resistance by the Welsh – at least for the time being.

Vantage point

Having secured all this new territory in Wales, Edward was determined not to lose it. And so began the systematic construction of a series of new towns and castles, designed as a display of the King's influence over the region and to encourage settlement by English folk.

Several small castles had been constructed after the rebellion of 1277, at Flint, Rhuddlan, Builth and Aberystwyth, which had included new buildings as well as the refortification of existing strongholds. But following the demise of the Gruffydds, Edward decided to permanently

DETERMINED TO CAPTURE THE BACK-STABBING DAFYDD, EDWARD DEPLOYED SOME 7,000 TROOPS TO FIND HIM

colonise North Wales with a number of walled towns guarded by huge castles incorporating the latest designs from mainland Europe. The King chose sites with defence in mind, often where the castle would be easily accessible by water for the delivery of supplies and reinforcements. Castles were to be built at Harlech, Caernarfon and on the site of Aberconwy Abbey, which held a strategic vantage point overlooking the River Conwy. As the burial site of Llywelyn the Great, a former Prince of Wales and the grandfather of the Gruffydd brothers, the site was of symbolic as well as strategic importance. Edward financed the relocation of the abbey to Maenan, eight miles inland. Building on revered ground allowed him to make an even more potent statement about his subjugation of the native population.

Under duress

The construction of Conwy Castle was controlled by Sir John de Bonvillars and overseen by Edward's architect, Master James of Saint George. Also known as Jacques de Saint Georges d'Espéranche, the Master Mason hailed from Savoy, a region on the borders of France, Switzerland and Italy (Edward had probably met him during his visit to the area in 1273). Other key figures in the construction included Otto de Grandson – a Savoyard knight and close personal friend of the King – Adam Boynard, Gillot de Chalons, William Seysel and another Master Mason, John Francis.

To undertake the work, a huge English workforce was ferried into Wales – often under duress. During the peak summer season, Conwy probably had 1,500 craftsmen working on it. In 1284, Edward appointed the Burgundian knight Sir William de Cicon as constable of the castle, whose job it would be to oversee its completion and act as Mayor of the town.

The walled town of Conwy was given 21 towers and three gatehouses set in a wall 24ft thick – designed to protect what would now be a strictly English population. It would also form the centre of the new county of Conwy. ▶

Castle anatomy

▲ BAILEY

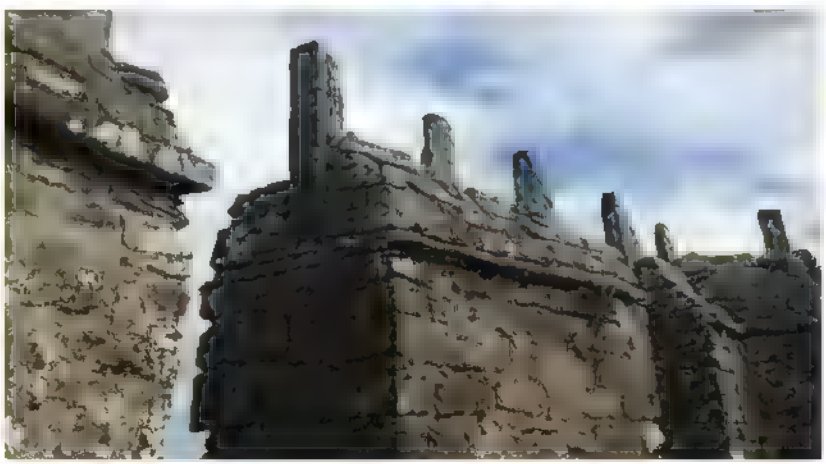
Also known as a ward, this is an outdoor courtyard contained within a castle's protective curtain walls. The word bailey comes from the Norman-French *baille*.

▲ ARROW SLITS

Also known as arrow loops or embrasures, these are the vertical holes in castle walls that enabled defending archers to fire on attacking forces.

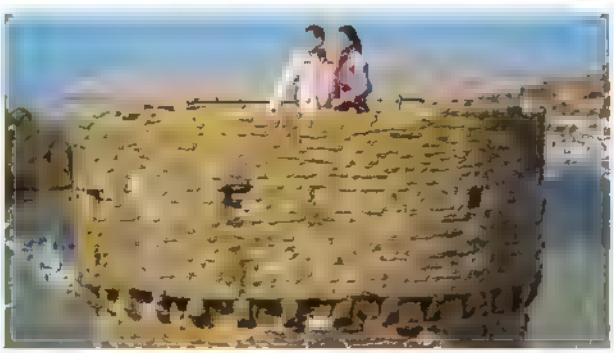
▼ CURTAIN WALL

This is the defensive fortification around a castle.



▲ FINIALS

Not all exterior features of a castle were built for defensive purposes – these carved pieces of stone were used to decorate the tops of walls and towers.



▲ PUTLOG HOLE

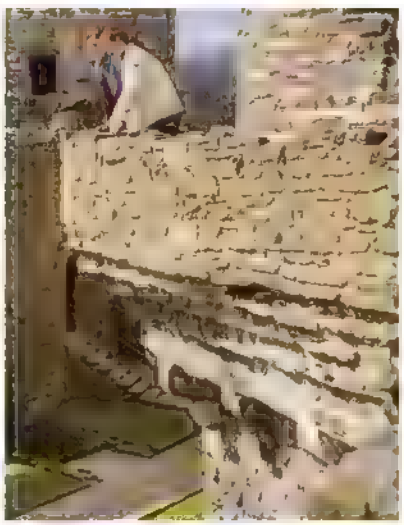
These small openings were deliberately left in walls for the insertion of a beam or pole, which could be used for attaching scaffolding or a walkway.

▶ MERLONS

The raised sections of a battlement or crenellated parapet, merlons provided cover for the defending soldiers and often held embrasures or arrow slits, through which archers could target their attackers.

▶ CRENEL

This is the gap between the merlons on the top of a fortified wall. The alternating series of merlons and crenels is termed crenellation.



◀ PARAPET

Between waist and head height, these defensive walls were often crenellated to provide cover.

◀ CORBELS

These are structural pieces of stonework that extend out from a wall to support a projecting floor or parapet above.

Master Mason James of Saint George: architect of a dynasty

James of Saint George (also known as Jacques de Saint-Georges d'Espéranche) was born in Savoy, on the borders of France, Italy and Switzerland, around 1230. The Master Mason worked on a number of castles across Europe, most notably the French fortress of Saint George d'Espéranche near Lyon, from which he took his name. Edward I met the architect on his travels around 1273, but wouldn't get the chance to employ him for several years. Records show Master James travelling to Wales in 1278, and indicate that he was Master Mason at Flint and Rhuddlan between 1278 and 1282. Eventually, he would be responsible for 12 of the 17 castles that Edward built or fortified. His final castle was the beautiful fortress at Beaumaris on the island of Anglesey, which is now regarded as the finest example of the symmetric, concentric design of the period. James enjoyed the prestige that his position afforded, and was paid accordingly: by 1284, his wage had risen to three shillings a day (a week's work for most craftsmen). The Savoyard lived out the rest of his life in Britain, and died around 1308.

The design of the castle drew on a number of influences, not least Edward himself, who had led the siege of Kenilworth Castle in 1266 and had been on the receiving end in the fortified city of Acre while on crusade in 1271. His military experience undoubtedly helped inform the placement of defensive elements.

However, the finer details belonged to Master James of Saint George. The Savoyard architect had been working for Edward in Wales since 1278, being paid three shillings a day (which was a week's pay for other craftsmen). He brought certain architectural features to the project, such as semi-circular arches, a new design of arched window and triple finials on the merlons (that is, three stone spikes on the higher parts of the wall).

James also employed the technique of creating spiralling scaffolding around the towers. Wooden beams were inserted in putlog holes, onto which platforms could be built. He was also responsible for designing the royal chambers, which were heated, well-lit and suitably palatial, where most castles up until then had been dark and dreary affairs.

Perilous rocks

The castle layout is largely rectangular, with a 50ft high curtain wall punctuated by eight towers, each around 40ft in diameter – four at each corner and two dissecting the longer northern and southern walls. The sheer bulk of the castle would have been enough to put off would-be assailants, its structure safe from attack due to the perilous rocks on three sides, plus a wealth of well-thought-out defences.

Conwy also eschewed the practice of having multiple lines of defence, where a fortified courtyard – termed a "ward" or "bailey" – was then surrounded by an outer curtain wall, providing inner and outer wards that could be defended separately. This design had been used extensively and was a feature of Rhuddlan, Aberystwyth and Harlech Castles. Such was their popularity that Edward ordered the addition of a second curtain wall to the Tower of London.

Instead, Conwy featured (and still features) two wards sitting side by side, the larger outer ward ringed by six towers on the west, with an adjacent inner ward to the east. Either ward could hold out independently if the other should fall. This design was in part due to the building's location on a high, narrow ridge of grey sandstone and limestone, whose shape prevented the typical concentric design. (This also explains the bowing out of the south wall, which follows the topology of the rock.)

Although not concentric, the castle does include a barbican at either end – small, fortified areas each containing a gateway, which could be used as outer defences. The main entrance would have been accessed through the western barbican, reached via a stone ramp and drawbridge, and protected by a portcullis. The drop to the ditch below is 28 feet.

The western barbican also features the oldest surviving machicolations in Britain – derived from the French word *machicoulis*, these are openings in the floor of a section of battlement that extend outward from the castle wall. Held up by "corbels", these would have allowed soldiers to drop rocks or other objects onto their attackers.

The larger outer ward was home to several administrative buildings, with the great hall – some 125ft long – and chapel residing on the south side. The towers probably housed the castle constable and members of the garrison, which would have numbered around 30 soldiers. The north side would have contained accommodation, a kitchen and a brewery.

On the eastern side lies the smaller inner ward, separated by a wall and accessed via a gate over another drawbridge. Next to the wall is a well, 91ft deep and fed by a natural spring. The inner ward would have housed the King and Queen's private rooms and accommodation for their entourage, and could be sealed off from the rest of the castle and resupplied by sea. The four towers at each corner of the inner ward also feature an additional watchtower turret, for an even greater view of the surroundings and for displaying the royal flag.

By 1287, Castle Conwy was complete, with a final price tag – including the walls of the town – of £15,000. In the 13th Century, that was an astonishing amount of money. The exterior walls and towers were given a coat of white lime render, partially to protect the stone but also to give the fortress even more visual impact, helping this already imposing castle to be seen from many miles away.

Heavy defeat

The fortress stood unmolested for eight years, until it was besieged by Madog ap Llywelyn in the winter of 1294. As the descendant of Owain ap Gruffydd, former King of Gwynedd, Madog declared himself the lawful Prince of Wales, and became the figurehead of a revolt against the English, due to unfair taxes and the conscription of the Welsh to fight for Edward against France.

With military matters pressing in Scotland and France, Edward was keen to put down the revolt and marched into Wales yet again. Upon his

Edward I and Conwy Castle timeline

1272
On crusade in North Africa, Edward hears of his father Henry III's death. He is named King of England.

1274
Edward is crowned.

1276
Llywelyn ap Gruffydd leads a minor uprising in Wales.

1277
Edward invades Wales with a force of 15,500 men to quell the uprising.

1282
Another rebellion, this time led by Dafydd ap Gruffydd, prompts Edward to conquer Wales once and for all.

1283
Having defeated the Welsh, Edward embarks on a programme of colonisation. He instigates the building of castles at Beaumaris, Harlech, Caernarfon and Conwy.

1287
Conwy Castle is completed at a cost of £15,000.

1294
Madog ap Llywelyn puts himself at the head of a revolt against Edward. Caernarfon Castle is overrun and captured, while Conwy is besieged.

1295
Edward and his forces hold Conwy until help arrives. Madog's forces are defeated, ending the war.

1321
A survey of the castle states that it is in poor condition, with limited supplies.

1343
Sir John Weston undertakes repairs on the orders of Edward of Woodstock, the Black Prince.

1399
Richard II meets with his rival Henry Bolingbroke's emissary in the castle chapel. Later, Richard abdicates and Bolingbroke takes the throne as Henry IV.

1401
After the Prince of Wales, Owain Glyndr, encourages a rebellion against England, two of his cousins capture Conwy Castle, while others take over the town. The two brothers hold out for three months, but eventually surrender.

1520-1530
Henry VIII orders restoration work to be carried out on the castle.

1627
Now in disrepair, the castle is sold by Charles I to Edward Conway for £100.

1646
During the English Civil War, the castle is besieged by the Parliamentary army.

1655
Parliament's Council of State orders Conwy Castle to be made unusable by the military.

1665
The castle is returned to Edward Conway, who strips the lead and iron to sell, leaving Conwy in ruin.

1865
With the castle now under the auspices of Conwy's civil leadership, work begins on its restoration, and it soon becomes a tourist attraction.

1986
Conwy Castle is declared part of the World Heritage Site of the "Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd".

2012
A new visitor centre is opened. The castle now welcomes over 180,000 sightseers a year.

arrival in Conwy, he probably had in the region of 20,000 men, who set up camp on the far side of the river. The army spent Christmas in the area, after which Edward and a small force set off west to Caernarfon Castle, only to find it in ruins. Madog's forces had besieged the castle, which was still in the process of being built. Lacking key defences, the garrison was overrun and the marauding Welsh were able to take over the castle – as they had with many of Edward's other strongholds.

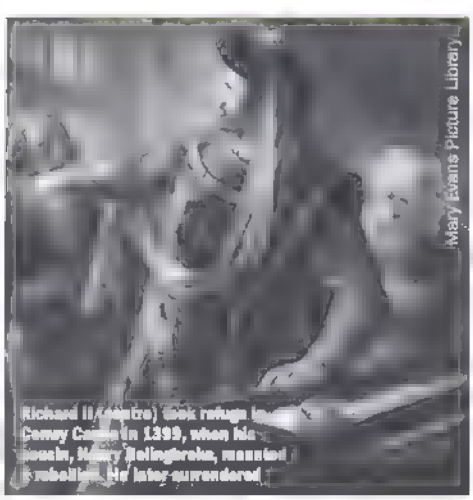
When his baggage train was attacked and captured, Edward decided to retreat to the safety of Conwy Castle and wait for reinforcements. However, the winter weather had descended and severe flooding prevented his forces from crossing the river and coming to his aid.

With the forces from his sortie to Caernarfon, Edward had just enough soldiers to repel Madog's assault. Unlike Caernarfon, Conwy was complete and the Welsh lacked the heavy siege equipment needed to make any impact on this vast and sturdy emplacement. However, the additional bodies inside Conwy presented the problem of dwindling supplies – Edward allegedly shared his last barrel of wine with his men rather than drink it himself.

With the King's castles either captured or under siege, the Welsh were free to raid towns and interrupt supply lines. Edward's grip on Wales was beginning to slip and he needed to act. Fortunately, by February, the weather had abated enough for his troops to make the crossing. Faced with superior numbers, the Welsh melted back into the countryside.

Had Conwy not been completed, or had it been built to lesser standards, the outcome of the Welsh siege may have been very different – and with it, the fortunes of both Wales and England. Eventually, Madog's army suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of the Earl of Warwick's forces at the Battle of Maes Moydog in Powys, in March 1295. Madog escaped, but with his army decimated and the Welsh spirit broken, he surrendered later that year. Although Edward spared his enemy the death penalty, Madog was destined to live out the rest of his life as a prisoner in the Tower of London, until his death in 1312.

EDWARD ALLEGEDLY SHARED HIS LAST BARREL OF WINE WITH HIS MEN RATHER THAN DRINK IT HIMSELF



Mary Evans Picture Library

Richard II (centre) took refuge in Conwy Castle in 1399, when his cousin, Henry Bolingbroke, mounted a rebellion. He later surrendered.

Edward's troops launched a midnight attack on the remaining Welsh forces, killing 500, and then occupied Anglesey, the last remaining Welsh stronghold. The war between Wales and England was finally over.

Over the next hundred years, Conwy Castle gradually fell into disrepair, as its military importance faded. It occasionally underwent restoration, but its glory days were over. It wouldn't see any major military action again until the Parliamentarians went to war against Charles I's Royalists. Sir John Owen, commander of the Royalist foot regiment in North West Wales, seized the castle in 1644 and held on for two years, eventually capitulating to General Thomas Mytton after a lengthy siege.

A decade later, the order was given for the fortress to be "slighted" – deliberately damaged to prevent it from being used by the Royalists. When its then-owner, Edward Earl of Conway, decided to strip and sell off its iron and lead in 1663, the castle became an uninhabitable ruin.

Its military career over, Conwy Castle gradually captured the hearts and minds of painters and sightseers who visited the region. During the 18th and 19th Centuries, road and rail links to the town improved, and a restoration effort was instigated in 1953. The castle's credentials as a tourist attraction were cemented in 1986 when it was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, part of the greater "Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd".

www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/daysout/conwycastle

OFFER CODE **HISTP01**

Subscription order form

☐ **Yes!** I would like to subscribe to *History Of War*

☐ **UK Direct Debit** Just £17.95 every 6 issues* **saving 25%** off the cover price, plus a free book.

BEST DEAL

(Please complete the form below.)

YOUR DETAILS

Title Forename

Surname

Email address**

Address

Postcode Country

Phone

Mobile**

INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY TO PAY DIRECT DEBIT

Originator's Identification Number **8 3 7 1 8 1** DIRECT Debit

1 Name and address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Manager Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

2 Name of account holder(s)

3 Branch sort code ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐

4 Account number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

5 Instruction to your Bank/Building Society Please pay Anthem Publishing Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction, subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Anthem and if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s) Date

OTHER PAYMENT METHODS

☐ **UK** 12 issues by credit/debit card for just £36 **SAVE 25%**

☐ **Europe** 12 issues by credit/debit card for just £45

☐ **USA/Canada** 12 issues by credit/debit card for just $75

☐ **World** 12 issues by credit/debit card for just £54

Please debit my card

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro ☐ Am Ex

Card no

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Valid from ☐☐ ☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ Issue no ☐☐

Signature(s) Date

☐ I enclose a cheque payable to Anthem Publishing Ltd for £

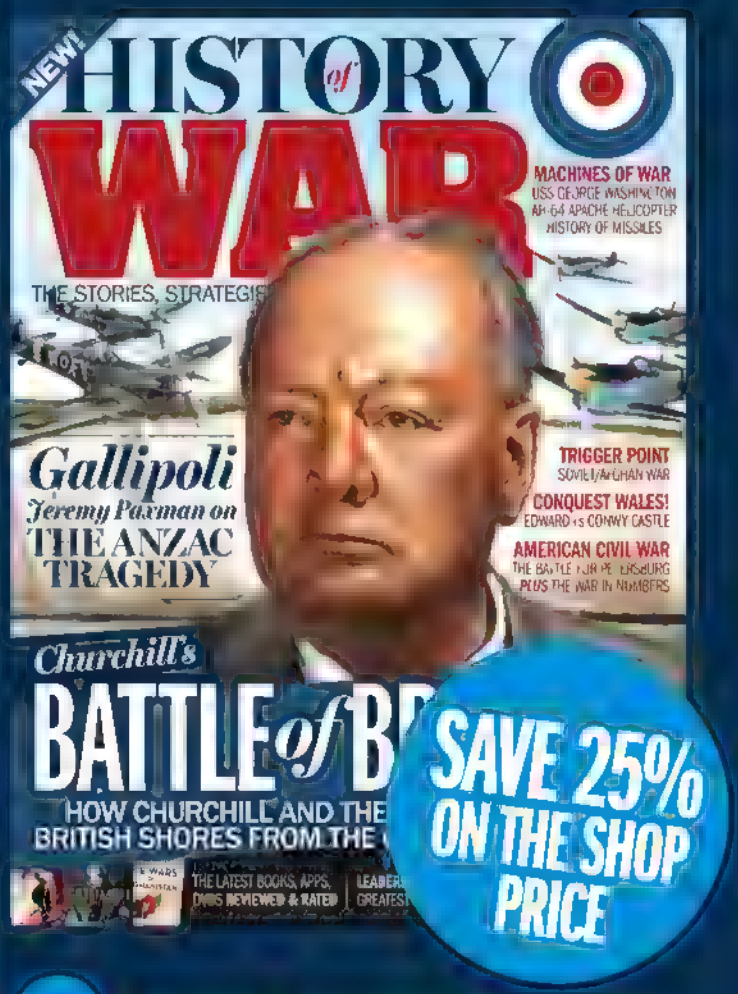
Send your completed form to Anthem Publishing Ltd, Freepost RRBS-LRRG-CTBJ, 800 Guildford Avenue, Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne ME9 8GU

OFFER ENDS 3 APRIL 2014

*Sorry, free gift is available to UK Direct Debit orders only, and is subject to availability. Anthem Publishing reserves the right to substitute this gift with a suitable alternative of similar value. Your subscription will start with the next available issue. Please note that your subscription payments are based on the number of issues you receive

**Please enter this information so that Anthem Publishing Ltd can keep you informed of newsletters, special offers and promotions via email or free text messages. You may unsubscribe from these messages at any time

Anthem Publishing Ltd, publisher of *History Of War*, may contact you with details of our products and services or to undertake research. Please tick here if you prefer not to receive such information by post ☐ phone ☐ We occasionally pass your details on to carefully selected companies whose products and services we feel may be of interest to you. Please tick here if you prefer not to receive such information by post ☐ phone ☐



3 easy ways to subscribe...

1 ONLINE

anthem.subscribeonline.co.uk/historyofwar

Use code **HISTP01**

2 CALL US ON

0844 245 6931**

Overseas readers should call +44 (0)1795 592814, quoting code **HISTP01

3 Or COMPLETE THE FORM

SUBSCRIBE TO *HISTORY OF WAR* MAGAZINE

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

FREE MAX HASTINGS CATASTROPHE BOOK*

PLUS save 25% when you subscribe

CATASTROPHE IS A magisterial chronicle of the calamity that befell Europe in 1914 as the continent shifted from the glamour of the Edwardian era to the tragedy of total war. As the world commemorates the centenary of the beginning of the Great War, bestselling author and world-renowned historian Max Hastings seeks to explain both how the conflict came about, and what befell millions of men and women during the first months of strife.

YOUR FANTASTIC SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE

- worth £30*
- Save 25%
- just £17.95
- Free UK delivery

INSIDE VIEW

American aircraft-carrier

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON

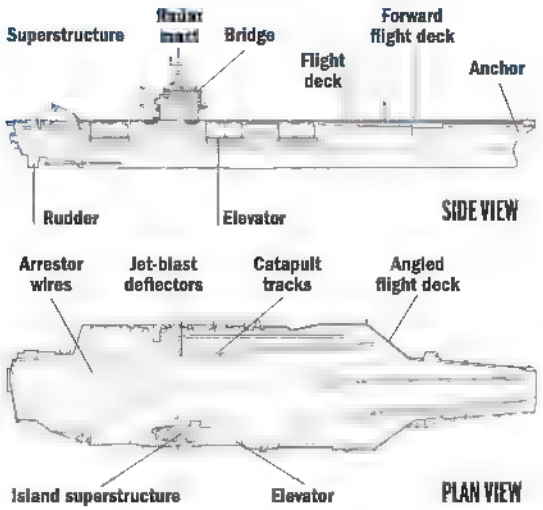
Aircraft-carriers are the ultimate symbol of naval power. The Washington is one of ten Nimitz-class super-carriers in the US Navy – the largest military vessels ever built

Commissioned in 1992, the USS George Washington can accommodate 85 aircraft, including fighter, strike and transport planes, airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft, and helicopters. It is also a floating home for around 6,000 service men and women. Although it was designed primarily to offer an offensive strike capability, the ship is equipped with its own defences, such as anti-aircraft and anti-missile weapon systems, as well as rapid-fire 20mm guns.

On the starboard side and overlooking the deck is the island superstructure – the ship's command-and-control centre, which houses the bridge and primary flight control area. From here, officers can keep a careful watch on the massive flight deck, which covers 1.8 hectares (4.5 acres) – about the size of two-and-a-half soccer pitches.

During flying operations, the deck is a hive of activity, with aircraft taking off and landing, as well as being manoeuvred, refuelled and armed. Aircraft are launched by four catapults – two at the forward end of the angled deck and two in the bows. The landing deck is angled to the port side to allow other activities to take place as aircraft return to the ship. When touching down, a pilot must ensure that the plane's tailhook catches one of four high-tensile steel arrestor wires that run across the flight deck. These decelerate the aircraft rapidly and bring it to a halt within two seconds.

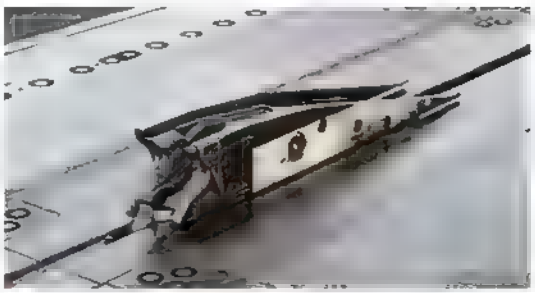
When they're not in use, most aircraft are stored beneath the flight deck in the vast hangar, which stretches for much of the ship's length. On the decks below are living quarters for the personnel, complete with mess halls, stores and laundry facilities.



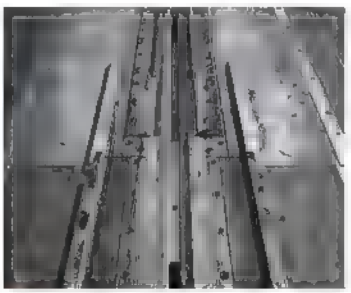
▲ **USS GEORGE WASHINGTON** The sixth Nimitz-class carrier, the Washington is 333m (1,092ft) long and displaces around 103,000 tonnes. It is powered by two nuclear reactors.

▲ **PREPARING FOR TAKE-OFF** Deck crew secure a Northrop Grumman E-2C Hawkeye AEW aircraft to a catapult shuttle.

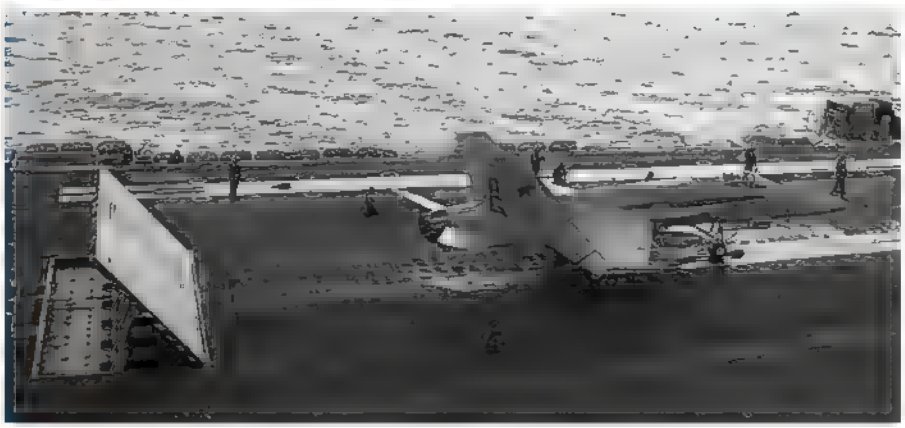
▲ **CATAPULT CONTROL POD** This observation pod, which retracts below the flight deck, enables the crew controlling catapult launches to see what's happening while remaining safe from moving aircraft.



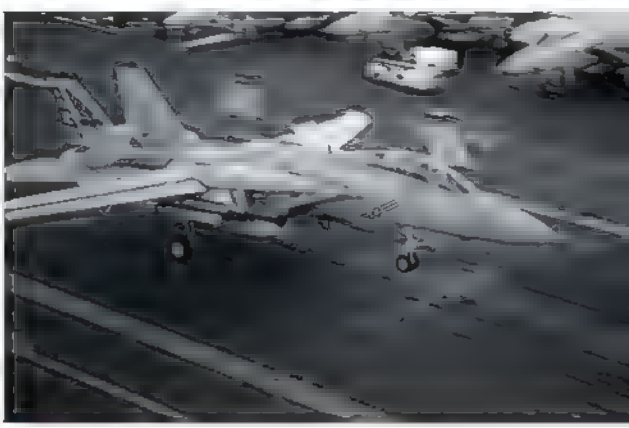
▲ **CATAPULT SHUTTLE** For catapult launches, a shuttle is attached to the plane's undercarriage and propelled along a short track by a steam-powered piston.



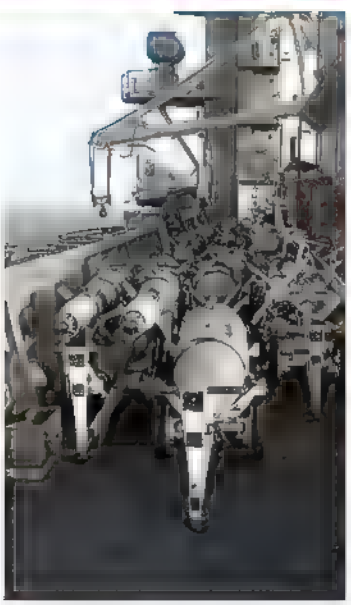
▲ **SHUTTLE TRACK** The catapult shuttle runs along a track set into the surface of the ship's flight deck.



▲ **JET-BLAST DEFLECTOR** The deflector shield that sits behind this McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet prevents the plane's exhaust from causing damage or injury during take-off. These shields have to be strong enough to withstand temperatures close to 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit, although they are cooled by water from the sea.



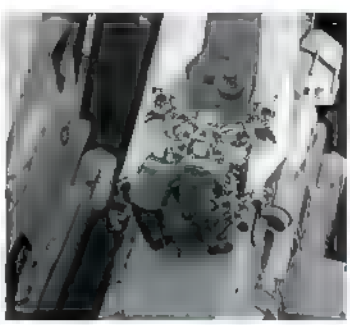
▲ **GRUMMAN F-14 TOMCAT LANDING** A pilot increases the throttle during touchdown, so that if the aircraft fails to catch the arrestor wires, it still has enough speed to take off again.



▲ AIRCRAFT WEAPONRY Most of the carrier's formidable firepower is reserved for its aircraft. Airborne weapons include bombs, rockets, guided missiles and torpedoes.

▲ ELEVATOR Four hydraulic lifts – one to port and three to starboard – move aircraft between the hangar and the flight deck. They also take stores or spare parts to and from the hangars.

▶ HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE
An aircraft-carrier's helicopters perform many roles, including anti-submarine work, rescues and the transportation of personnel to and from combat situations.

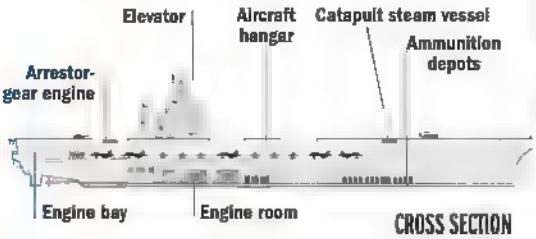


▲ FLOATING AIRSTRIP Carriers such as the George Washington provide the strategic benefit of a mobile strike platform that can operate from anywhere in international waters.

▲ ISLAND SUPERSTRUCTURE Much of the electronics, including radar and satellite-communications equipment, is based on the island, which has the ship's number painted on its sides. ▶

INSIDE AND DOWN BELOW

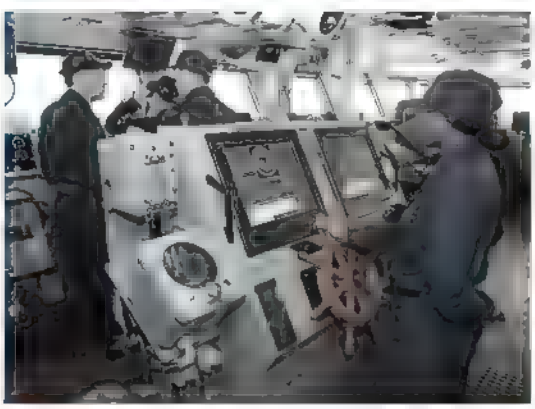
The control rooms are based both in the island superstructure and elsewhere below deck. In addition to the aircraft hangar, the lower deck areas include the catapult and arrestor gear machinery, 44 magazines, and the power plant and engine room. Facilities for the thousands of crew and air wing include messes, medical facilities and a gym.



CROSS SECTION

▶ **PRIMARY FLIGHT CONTROL**

Overlooking the deck, the air boss in charge of the ship's aircraft coordinates all take-offs and landings. The windows are angled to reduce glare from the sun.

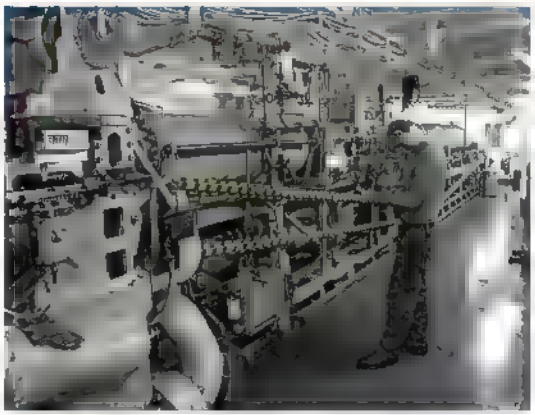


▲ **BRIDGE**

The bridge provides its crew with panoramic views of the sky and ocean. From here, the captain or watch officer oversees the ship's navigation and steering.

▲ **REACTOR CONTROLS**

The reactors are controlled remotely from this room. The ship can run for a year on a fuel pellet the size of a soft-drink can. It has enough fuel to run non-stop for 18 years.

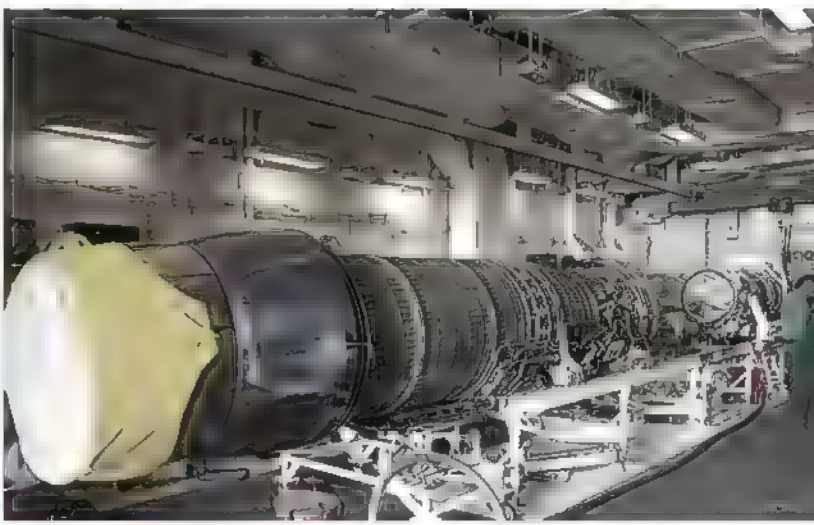


▶ **INSTRUMENT PANEL**

Gauges show the steam pressure in the catapult mechanisms. The ship can launch up to four planes per minute.

▲ **ARRESTING GEAR PISTON**

Huge hydraulic pistons below the flight deck provide the power to rein in the arrestor wires as they are caught by planes landing at speeds of up to 240kph (150mph).



▲ **ENGINE BAY**

The maintenance, testing and storage of engines take place in a bay below the ship's deck. A Grumman F-14 Tomcat engine can be seen in this picture, with the engine of an F/A-18 Hornet visible in the background.

▶ **HANGAR**

Aircraft are serviced in the hangar. Each of the staff involved has a specific jacket colour that denotes his or her role: for example, a general maintenance petty officer wears a green one, while brown denotes a plane captain – responsible for the upkeep of a specific aircraft.

▼ **NO.3 PUMP ROOM**

JP5 aviation fuel is pumped up to the flight deck. To reduce the risk of fire, JP5 has a lower ignition temperature than commercial fuel.

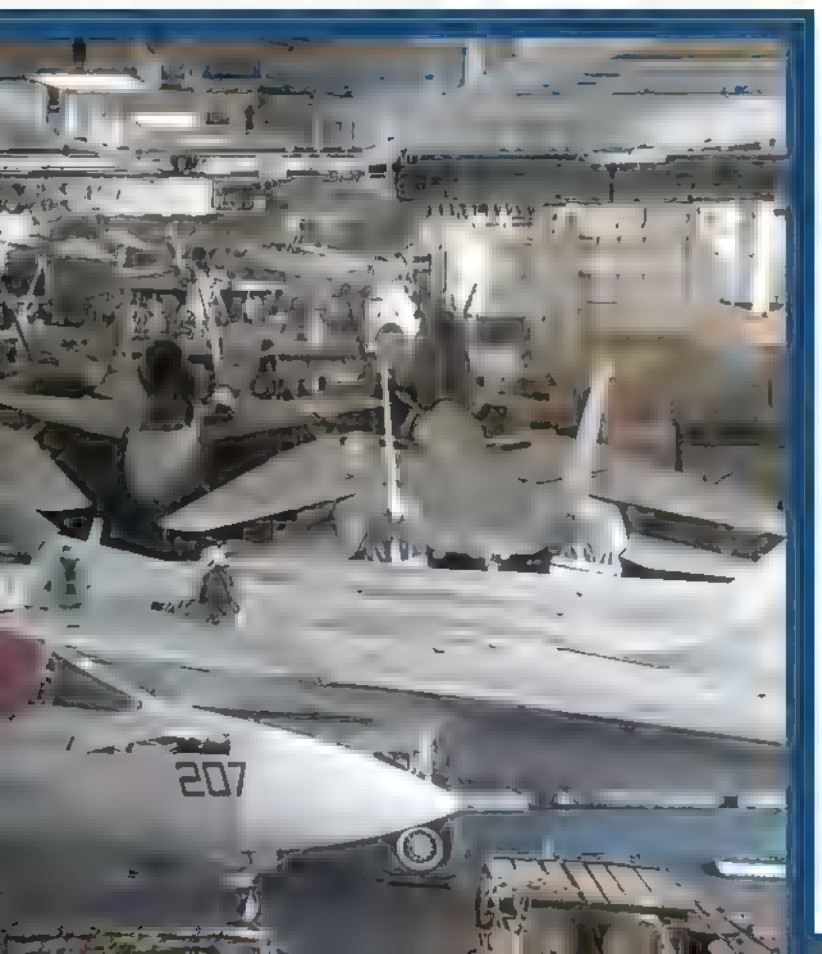
▲ **OPERATIONS ROOM**
Staff monitor take-offs and landings via television screens, and use radar to direct airborne planes. In the event of an attack, the defence systems are also operated from here.

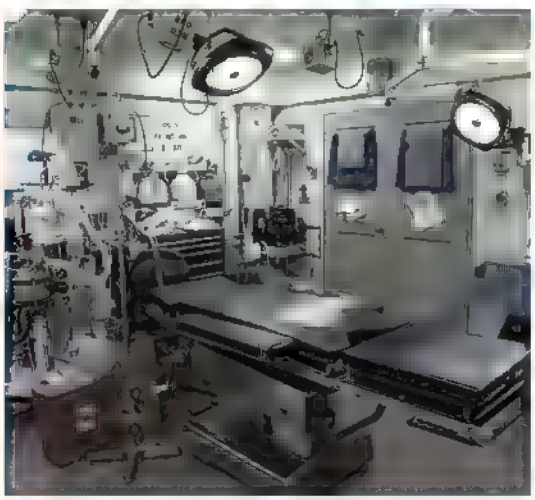
▶ **PROPELLER SHAFT**
An engineer checks a shaft that drives one of the four propellers. Powered by the ship's twin nuclear reactors, a quartet of five-bladed propellers give the George Washington a top speed in excess of 30 knots.

▲ **ANCHOR CHAINS**
The ship has a pair of 30-tonne, stockless anchors. Each of the anchor chain's links weighs approximately 160kg (360lb).

▲ **BAKERY**
Along with the galley, the bakery helps to provide around 18,000 meals for the ship's 6,000 crew every single day. The large ovens are visible in the background.

▼ **BRIEFING ROOM**
Flight instructions are given in the briefing room. Each seat is assigned to a specific pilot.



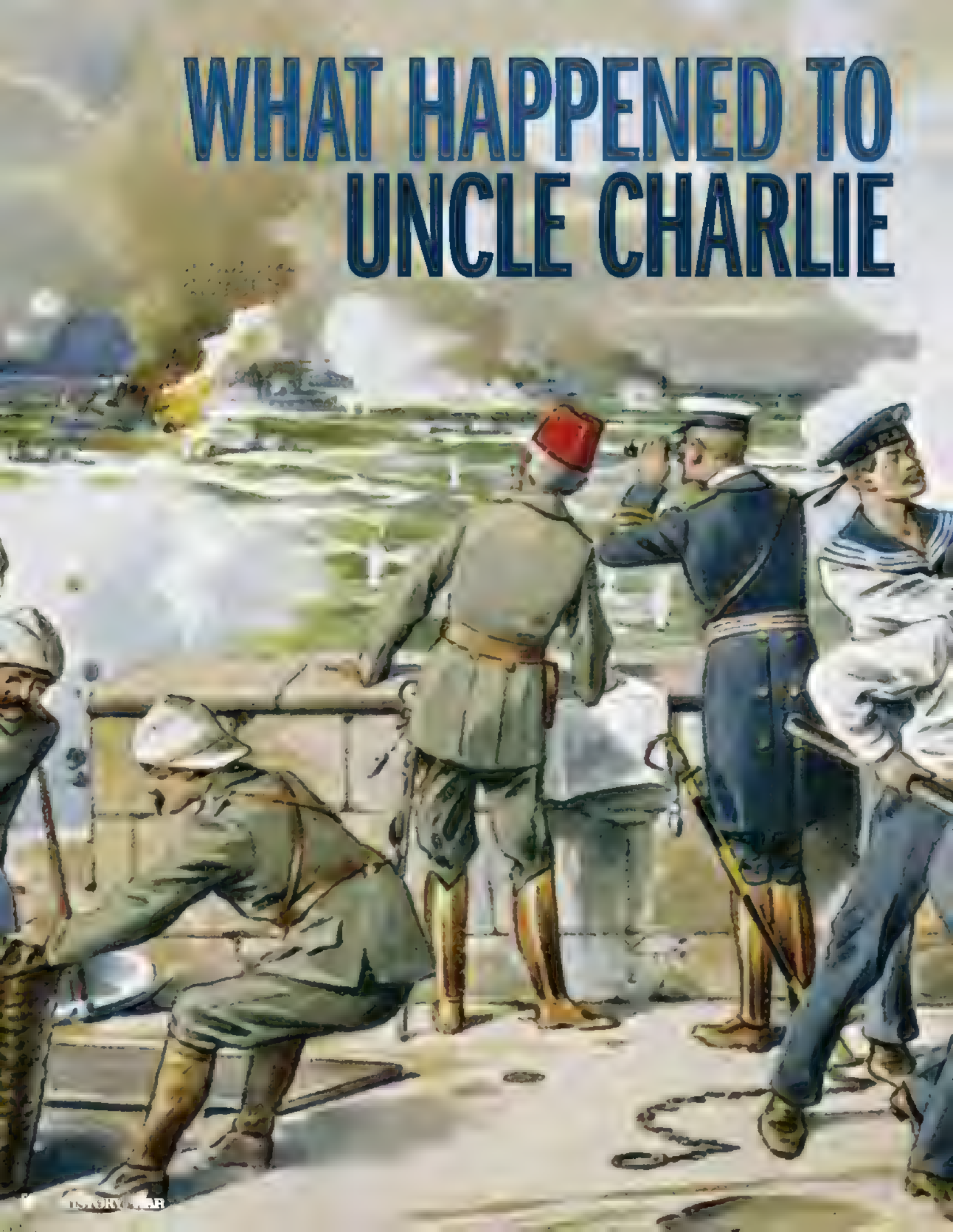


◀ **OPERATING THEATRE**
The ship's medical department must be ready for almost any kind of illness, accident or battle casualty. In an average year, the medical team sees over 10,000 patients, processes around 3,000 X-rays and performs more than 100 surgical operations.

▲ **DRINKING FOUNTAIN**
Each day, distilling plants produce 1.5 million litres (330,000 gallons) of fresh water from sea water.

This feature is an edited extract from *The Military History Book*, published in the UK by Dorling Kindersley and available from both online and high-street book stores, RRP £30.

WHAT HAPPENED TO UNCLE CHARLIE



First World War: In an extract from his new book, *Great Britain's Great War*, Jeremy Paxman recalls the Allies' disastrous Gallipoli campaign of 1915-16, and uncovers the fate of his heroic great-uncle, Charles Edmund Dickson

"I don't know what's to be done... this isn't war," wailed the War Secretary, Lord Kitchener. Within four months of the beginning of hostilities, Great Britain's Great War was at a standstill. Conventional British military tactics were redundant, with both sides stuck in a series of trenches that ran from the North Sea to the borders of Switzerland, and neither side holding the initiative. But Sir John French, commanding British troops on the Western Front, remained adamant (as, naturally, were the French commanders) that it was only on the Western Front that a decisive victory might be won: any reduction of the pressure would give the impression that Britain considered Germany unbeatable there. But a third man thought he had a way to break the deadlock.

In the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, with his sensitive political nose, believed there was an opportunity to attack Germany "through the back door". He demanded a plan from the Admiral in command of the Royal Mediterranean fleet, who provided one,

BACKSTORY

The war on the Western Front had reached a stalemate: trench warfare had set in, with neither the Allies nor the Central Powers able to gain an advantage. So Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, suggested a new tactic...

The most senior officer in the Royal Navy, Admiral Jackie Fisher (left), was fiercely opposed to Churchill's plan and, in 1915, resigned in protest

which he then presented to the War Council in the middle of January 1915. The idea was seductive, if complicated. Suppose an Allied force could break through from the Aegean to the Sea of Marmara, the inland sea on which sat Constantinople, the capital of Germany's ally, Turkey. Menacing the Turkish capital would oblige Germany to divert troops to defend it – troops that might otherwise be facing Britain and France on the Western Front. Should its capital fall, Turkey would be forced out of the war, and Britain and France would then be able to open a supply route north through the Black Sea to their ally Russia. Churchill anticipated that a successful attack on Turkey would also ensure the safety of British-controlled Egypt and encourage irritatingly neutral Balkan states to get off the fence in the war. At the very least, it was an alternative to the stagnation on the Western Front, and no one seemed to have any better idea.

The difficulty was that this bold enterprise hung upon forcing a passage through the Dardanelles, the narrow strip of water that runs for 40 miles or so between the Aegean and the Sea of Marmara. It was well known that the Turks had built a series of forts to protect the channel, and a feasability study had already shown that attempting to take the straits would be a hugely dangerous enterprise. Churchill talked blithely of risking only a few out-of-date warships, but, infuriatingly, the most significant dissenter was the most senior officer in the Royal Navy, the respected 73-year-old Admiral "Jackie" Fisher, who grew increasingly hostile to the whole plan – even storming out of the room at one point when it was being discussed. Despite this, most of the War Council were upbeat and excited. By mid-February, the idea of a purely naval mission had been modified – Kitchener agreed that ground troops would also be sent, to complete the occupation of the Turkish forts after the Naval bombardment of the Dardanelles coastline.

SOLEMN PILGRIMAGE
SOME 15,000 PEOPLE TRAVEL TO GALLIPOLI EACH YEAR FOR ANZAC DAY. THIRTY PER CENT OF ANZAC FORCES' FIRST WORLD WAR CASUALTIES OCCURRED ON THE PENINSULA.

Swift retreat

It was another disaster. On 19 February, a large force of British and French battleships, cruisers, destroyers, submarines and associated vessels began the attack. Everyone knew about the Turkish forts, but there was a general assumption that the Turkish armed forces weren't up to much and there was great confidence in the power of the Royal Navy guns. This turned out to be very misplaced – apart from anything else, the Royal Navy had not had enough practice in firing at shore targets. In the event, the naval force ran into a thicket of mines laid across the straits. No one had suspected the minefield's existence, and allied minesweepers were incapable of clearing the mines while under fire from the Turkish shore batteries. To the great embarrassment of Britain's naval commanders, three of the expedition's biggest warships were sunk and another three disabled. Now, what in prospect had seemed a relatively cheap and cheerful naval mission risked becoming a catastrophe. There was a swift retreat.

Sir Ian Hamilton, the General appointed to command the land operations, was a veteran of wars from Afghanistan to South Africa. He was a brave, decent, cultured man with a taste for poetry, but had been rather baffled to have been given the mission. As he later admitted, "My knowledge of the Dardanelles was nil; of the Turks nil; of the strength of our own forces next to nil." The only research material he could find to prepare himself was a guidebook and a collection of "travellers' tales". But the British Government was desperate and Sir John French's strategy of slugging away on the Western Front was going nowhere.

Sir Ian concluded that the naval disaster meant the only thing to do was send soldiers ashore to destroy the Turkish gun emplacements. In other words, he wanted to turn the original plan – a naval bombardment followed

by a land operation – on its head. Unfortunately for him, the naval ca amity meant that any element of surprise had been lost, and the Turks used the break n host lities that followed it to prepare their defences. They were blessed w th a skilled German commander, General Otto Liman von Sanders, who came to admire and promote a brilliant young Turk sh officer, Mustafa Kemal later to become the founder of modern Turkey Tens of thousands of reinforcements of men and guns were brought into the Gal poli peninsu a alongside the Dardanelles, and positioned high on the c ffs.

The British planning of the ground assault, by contrast, was confused and ndec sive – not that that was apparent to many of the young men involved. Rupert Brooke, the beaut ful boy of his age, had turned down an offer to jo n General Hamilton's staff and was among those eagerly looking forward to splashing ashore. "Oh God! I've never been so happy in my life," he exc aimed. "I suddenly realise that the ambition of my life has been – since I was two – to go on a m litary expedit on against Constant nople." He d d not achieve his dream because he d ed of b ood poisoning on the way to the invas on, almost certa nly from an infected mosquito bite on his l p. It was an unheroic death, "as though Sir Lancelot had been diagnosed with termina dandruff", as one historian put it.

Sir Ian Hamilton eventually assembled about 75,000 troops – roughly 18,000 from the 29th D vision (a regular army unit made up of soldiers gathered from garr sons in the Empire), some 30,000 Australian and New Zea and (Anzac) soldiers, 10,000 from the Royal Navy Div sion and a French cont ngent of some 17,000 troops. He had very few high-exp os ve she ls and not much of a clue about the enemy he faced. He also made a sign ficant mistake, for nstead of a single, overwhelming attack, there were to be several separate landings, all of them against an enemy ensconced on h gh ground above the beaches, perfectly posit oned to pour terrib e fire down on the incoming troops.

Even so, on 25 April, two beachheads were established – one at Helles, at the tip of the Gallipoli peninsula, where British troops ran into feebler res stance than had been feared, and another further up the coast. Th s one was soon renamed Anzac Cove, in honour of the oss there of Australian and New Zea and soldiers pitched ashore at night, with ittle idea of the lie of the land and under murderous fire from wel -p aced Turk sh positions. Over the next few weeks, further land ngs were attempted but, with no critical mass, they were repeatedly repulsed by the ncreas ngly effective Turkish so diers. Now, even the new battle plan was failing. Hamilton sent a message to Kitchener: "Our troops have done all that flesh and blood can do against semi-permanent works, and they are not able to carry them. More and more munitions will be needed to do so. I fear that this is a very unpalatable conclus on, but I can see no way out of it."

Gas attack

On the Western Front, meanwh le, in the new battle raging around Ypres, the Germans launched the first gas attack, a horrifying development that transfixed military and civilians a ke. Contrary to predict ons, gas did not turn out to be the wonder weapon to break the deadlock in Europe, since its destructive power was litera y thrown to the w nd. But its use was a reminder that it was in France and Belgium that the outcome of the war wou d be determined. If so, the Dardanelles campaign was an irre evance, and this might have been the moment to call time on the whole mission. Fisher resigned as First Sea Lord. But yet aga n, national "honour" was used to just fy fight ng – K tchener believed that to abandon the attack wou d be catastrophic for Brita n's standing in the world. There must be another attempt to take the peninsula It wou d cost many more lives. One of them wou d be Unc e Charl e's.

The form sent by the military to his mother records Uncle Charlie's place of death as "34 Field Ambulance". ▶

NOW, WHAT IN PROSPECT HAD SEEMED LIKE A RELATIVELY CHEAP AND CHEERFUL NAVAL OPERATION RISKED BECOMING A CATASTROPHE

Below **A 60-pounder heavy field gun in action on a cliftop at Helles Bay, Gallipoli**

Gallipoli timeline

1914

6 NOVEMBER
The UK declares war on Turkey.

25 NOVEMBER
Winston Churchill puts forward his plan for a new war front in the Dardanelles to the British Government's War Council.

1915

13-15 JANUARY
The War Council gives its agreement and approves plans for a naval operation to force the Dardanelles. British troops stationed in Egypt are put on alert.

19 FEBRUARY
British Admiral Sackville Carden opens the attack on Turkish positions in the Dardanelles.

25 FEBRUARY
A second attack is launched on the Dardanelles, led by Vice-Admiral John de Robeck.

18 MARCH
Turkey repels the final attempt by the British and French fleets to force the straits. Three British battleships are sunk and a further three are damaged. Two-thirds of British battleships in the Dardanelles are lost on this day.

25 APRIL
Amphibious landings begin, as British and French troops land unopposed on three beaches at Cape Helles, while Anzac troops land at Anzac Cove.

24 MAY
An armistice is declared from 7.30am to 4.30pm, during which time Turkish and Anzac dead are buried.

6 AUGUST
The British 11th (Northern) Division begin landings at Suvla Bay, aimed at capturing the heights of Chunuk Bair in the Sari Bair range.

7 DECEMBER
The British Cabinet orders the evacuation of Anzac and Suvla.

19-20 DECEMBER
The Anzac/Suvla Bay evacuations are completed.

1916

8-9 JANUARY
The evacuation of Helles is completed as the last British troops depart the Gallipoli peninsula.

Turkish shells burst close to the SS River Clyde on V-Beach, Cape Helles, Gallipoli

ANZAC TRAGEDY

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BOTH SUFFERED HUGE LOSSES AT GALLIPOLI. OF THE 8,556 NEW ZEALANDERS WHO SERVED THERE, 2,721 DIED AND 4,725 WERE WOUNDED.

Mary Evans Picture Library

If so, he died in his place of work. Field ambulances were frontline medical units usually made up of ten officers and a couple of hundred stretcher bearers and medical orderlies, their job being to carry the wounded and erect tented hospitals on the battlefield (vehicles were then called ambulance "wagons"). The records show that 34th Field Ambulance was attached to the 11th (Northern) Division, which had been raised in the early days of the war when Kitchener appealed for volunteers. Sir Ivor Maxse, who became the Army's Inspector General of Training, damned it with faint praise when he later described it as showing "what may be called 'Yorkshire' characteristics: steadiness – amenability to discipline – rather than enthusiasm; slow in thought and movement rather than the mental alertness that is seen, say, in the Irish or London regiments".

These comments come from 1917. At the time the division was despatched to Gallipoli in 1915, the volunteers had enormous gaps in their training and were inexpertly officered. Many travelled to the Dardanelles on board two requisitioned transatlantic liners, the Aquitania and the Empress of Britain, chosen because – unless they were very unlucky, like the Lusitania – they could outrun any U-boat.

Mental collapse

By early August, over three months after the ground campaign had been launched, the division was on the island of Imbros, off the mouth of the Dardanelles. It was accompanied by two other divisions, also comprised of men who had joined up in response to Kitchener's 1914 appeal for volunteers: the Irish of the 10th Division and the West Country men of the 13th. Of the three divisions, the War Office considered the 11th the most impressive, but with what turned out to be a key proviso: that much would depend upon the personality of its commander.

Kitchener was under incessant pressure from Sir John French at this time not to deprive him of his more able officers. But even so, the commanders he decided to send to Gallipoli were an odd choice to bring off an operation that he had previously decreed to be vital to the success of the war. The original officer commanding the 13th Division – a hero of the Boer Wars – killed himself with a shot to the head soon after the outbreak of hostilities. He was replaced by the mountainous figure of Major General Frederick Shaw, who weighed the best part of 20 stone. The 10th Division, meanwhile, was under the command of Sir Bryan Mahon, a rather over-the-hill cavalry officer who had been part of the relief of the siege of Mafeking during the Second Boer War, and whose favourite recreations were riding steeplechases, hunting and pig sticking. As for the commander of the 11th, Major General Frederick Hammersley, Kitchener appointed him to the mission with the ominous caveat that "he will have to be watched to see that the strain of trench warfare is not too much for him".

Above **A Field Ambulance medic attends an injured soldier near the Dardanelles**

Hammersley was another magisterially moustached veteran, who had fought at the battle of Khartoum and been seriously wounded fighting the Boers in South Africa. But the reason for Kitchener's concern was that a few years before the war with Germany had broken out, he had suffered some kind of mental collapse. Hammersley later brushed it off as a minor nervous breakdown but according to the tittle-tattle, it had been a much more serious affair, during the treatment for which he had had to be held down while being medicated.

SOLDIERS STEPPING OFF INTO THE WATER FOUND IT WAS SO DEEP THAT THEY WERE LUCKY NOT TO BE DROWNED BY THE WEIGHT OF THEIR EQUIPMENT

Together, these three divisions (approximately 25,000 men) came under the command of Sir Frederick Stopford, an easy-going old fellow who had retired in 1909 and, at the outbreak of war, had been Lieutenant of the Tower of London, where his main duty had been the wearing of fancy dress. He chose to command the landings from his sloop – the Jonquil – moored offshore. Here, he slept through much of the assault.

The vast majority of young men under the command of these near-extinct volcanoes had never heard a shot fired in anger, for this was to be the very first attack by soldiers in Kitchener's so-called "New Army". Nor did they arrive in great shape, as the August temperatures climbed to over 30 degrees Centigrade during the day. Many of them had contracted diarrhoea or dysentery en route. These inexperienced men were landing on an exposed beach directly beneath enemy guns. It struck such terror in some that they lay paralysed with fear in the bottom of the "beetles" – the early landing craft taking them to the shore. Soldiers stepping off into the water discovered it was so deep that they were lucky not to be drowned by the weight of their own equipment. Others were taken to the wrong beaches and, because senior officers had expected much of the landing to be stealthy and unopposed, some had even been ordered not to load their rifles, denying them the minor satisfaction of shooting back at invisible Turkish snipers. Yet more found their rifles jammed by the effects of seawater and sand. Somewhere in this mass of frightened men was Uncle Charlie.

For Charlie and other men of 34th Field Ambulance, there was an additional problem: almost all their equipment had been left behind on the dockside in England. For the duration of the attack, they were ordered to join up with the 35th Field Ambulance, which was wading ashore at Suvla Bay at 2.30 in the morning of 7 August. By 8am, it had established a substantial dressing station. That day and the next, it treated over 700 wounded men.

Intensely hot

Conditions on the beach were hellish, for it was intensely hot during the day and very cold after dark. There was virtually no shade and little water. With the heat, the dust and the smell of cordite parching their throats, the more inexperienced soldiers soon finished the meagre allowance of water they had brought with them when they landed. Without portable radios and with Turkish snipers picking off anyone who tried to lay a telephone line, officers could give orders only to those within earshot. ▶

Q&A

JEREMY PAXMAN

The broadcaster and historian on who started the First World War, and the inspirations for his book

The BBC website recently ran a feature where it asked ten historians which country (or countries) caused the First World War (www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-26048324). Who was right?

I'm slightly bothered by this question: the war was a product of its time and there was some blame all round. Countries don't start wars, leaders do. Any sensible person of any nationality wants to avoid war. But if I have to choose only one of the combatant nations, responsibility clearly lies with Germany. Without its militaristic culture and ambition – and, above all, without its guarantee to Austria-Hungary – the war would not have happened as and when it did. German dreams and ruthlessness would have led to conflict with the other great powers at some point, though.

What was the inspiration for your book, *Great Britain's Great War*? Why bring the war "home"?

I am not a military historian. But I'm fascinated by what makes us who we are, and I realised that many of the things I thought I "knew" about the war were actually prejudices I'd imbibed over the course of my life. The real story is much more complicated, much more moving and much less ideological. The more I thought about it, the more I realised this was the event that created modern Britain.

On a personal level, I had grown up with a photo on my wall showing my Great Uncle Charlie – a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps who died at Gallipoli. I have the picture on the wall of my study even now. When my mother died a few years ago, we found an old cigar box among her effects. Inside was the dreaded form Charlie's widowed mother had received informing her of his death, along with a few other mementoes, like the "Dead Man's Penny" – the plaque sent to dead soldiers' next of kin. I became obsessed with how it was that an ordinary working-class lad (the census lists him as a "loom overseer" in one of the West Yorkshire woollen mills) came to end up dead on the other side of Europe. He joined up in the rush of volunteers in the early days of the war. If he was typical of his class and age, he had probably never left his county – let alone his country – before he wore uniform.

Do you consider yourself a journalist or an historian first and foremost?

I'm a journalist. Curiosity is what gets me out of bed in the morning. I can't see anything without asking, "Why is it like that?" Apart from anything else, my university degree was in English, so I guess I'm disqualified from calling myself an historian. It's not something that keeps me awake at night.

You've been presenting *Newsnight* for almost 25 years. Is it a job for life?

Rule Two of journalism: never assume.

What's next in terms of books and documentary series? Are you working on anything else that would interest the readers of *History Of War*?

I am working on something. I hope it's of interest to others, but I'm afraid you'll have to wait and see what it is!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After attending Cambridge University, Jeremy Paxman joined the BBC's graduate training programme in 1972. He has been with the Corporation ever since, appearing on everything from *Panorama* to *Breakfast Time*. Since 1989, he has been the presenter of *Newsnight*, and he also fronts *University Challenge*. He has written several history books.

Stretcher-bearers ferried wounded men to the medical posts, but there was hardly any more safety there: however often the first aid posts were moved about the beaches, shrapnel from Turkish artillery still tore through them.

A Sergeant in one of the field hospitals described trying to provide medical care on the beach as "a task to make angels weep... We have accommodation for about 150. Our usual number of patients is about 280... We are never out of the zone of fire, both artillery and rifle. Hardly a night passes without a patient or someone being hit." The official war diary of the 35th Field Ambulance records of 7 August that "during the greater part of this day, the Bearer Division and Dressing Station were working under shrapnel fire, and there were some casualties among the personnel of the 34th Field Ambulance who were attached (three killed, six wounded)". Assuming the information provided to his family is correct, Uncle Charlie must have been one of these men, although whether he was killed at the medical facility or while carrying a stretcher on the battlefield will probably never be known.

No offensive spirit

Uncle Charlie did not go to Gallipoli to fight, but the whole invasion force was singularly ineffective. Perhaps a more battle-hardened force would have done better, although it is hard to imagine any head-on assault making spectacular gains. The problem was leadership. When General Hamilton demanded to know what had gone wrong with the 11th Division, he concluded that the problem was less with the men of Kitchener's New Army than with the Generals of the old army: they seemed to have no offensive spirit. The Germans agreed: Major Wilhelm Willmer, the Bavarian cavalry officer commanding the Turkish defence, delightedly reported to Von Sanders that "no energetic attacks on

Key figures

▶ WINSTON CHURCHILL

As the Great War began, the future Prime Minister was First Lord of the Admiralty. It was he who, in an attempt to gain the upper hand in what had become a stalemate, suggested the Allies attack Germany "through the back door", advancing through the Dardanelles towards Constantinople.

▶ IAN HAMILTON

Hamilton commanded the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force during the Gallipoli campaign. With little knowledge of the Dardanelles, he spent six months unimaginatively bombarding the Turks and making little progress. He was recalled in October 1915, effectively ending his military career.

the enemy's part have taken place. On the contrary, the enemy is advancing timidly." It mattered not whether men died bravely or cravenly, full of belief in their cause or simply terrified, because their senior officers had led them so badly.

For all the bloodshed, yet again the attempt to break out from the beachhead failed. Kitchener decided that Freddy Stopford must be sacked, cabling Hamilton that "this is a young man's war and we must have commanding officers that will take full advantage of opportunities which occur but seldom". It was Kitchener, of course, who had appointed the old men – summoning Stopford from the Tower of London because he didn't want to take anyone better from among the Generals on the Western Front. Sir Frederick Hammersley, meanwhile, commanding the 11th Division upon which the attack had hinged, was evacuated – not, as had been feared, because of a mental breakdown, but, as General Hamilton reported it, because he was said to have a blood clot in his leg, and "he has to lie perfectly prostrate and still... as the least movement might set it loose and it would then kill him".

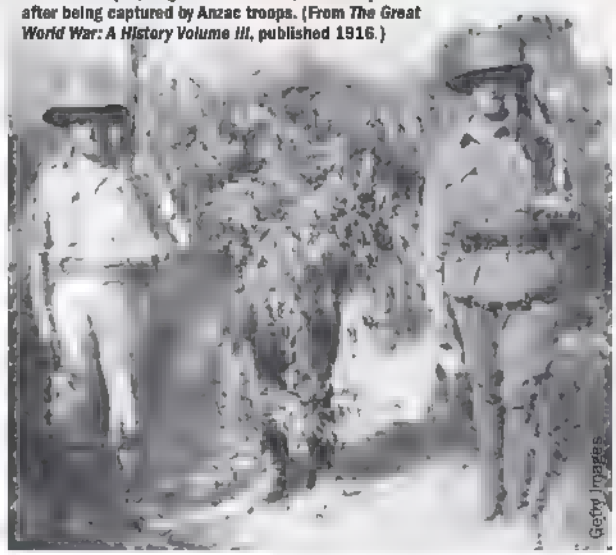
On 17 August, ten days after the landing, General Hamilton was cabling Kitchener with the familiar refrain: "Unfortunately, the Turks have temporarily gained the moral ascendancy over some of our new troops." If there was to be any chance of success, he needed "large reinforcements" immediately, because "it has become a question of who can slog longest and hardest". The brilliant initiative to break the stalemate of the Western Front had become a stalemate itself.

Merciless march

Had the British people known in detail what a shambles the Gallipoli misadventure had been, perhaps it would have been called off earlier. But they were never given the full picture. In the early days of the campaign, it had seemed as exotic as Kitchener's merciless march up the Nile to Omdurman in 1898 to wreak revenge on the rebels who had dared to defy the British Empire. The press coverage did little to put them right. In April, *The Daily Telegraph* had hailed the start of the campaign with the headlines "Great attack on the Dardanelles. Fleet and armies. Allied troops land in Gallipoli. Success of operations. Large forces advance." This had been followed by a fantastical claim two days later that troops had fought their way 20 miles inland.

The campaign was a censor's dream – soldiers on the Western Front might return home on leave or for medical treatment, but Turkey was thousands of sea-miles away. It was easy to control the flow of information. The one national newspaper reporter whom Kitchener had allowed to travel officially with the expedition was in trouble from the start. For some reason, Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett landed at Anzac Cove wearing an old pale-green felt hat, which somehow convinced Australian soldiers that he was a spy. He was saved from summary execution only when a Royal Navy sailor recognised him from the journey out. Ashmead-Bartlett, an arrogant young man with a taste for high living that could not be sustained by his income, did not make things easy for himself: on the voyage out, he had been noted for appearing in the mornings in a yellow silk robe and shouting for his breakfast "as though the Carlton [Club] were still his corporeal home". For all this, though, he recognised at the start that the Gallipoli campaign was bound to fail, even if the rules meant that any report he sent home could only be transmitted long after the commander's official anodyne communiqué.

At first, Ashmead-Bartlett did his best to play the patriotic game, describing the Australian landings at Anzac Cove in heroic terms, and including the observation that "the first Ottoman Turk since the last crusade received ▶



A Turkish sniper, disguised as a bush, in custody after being captured by Anzac troops. (From *The Great World War: A History Volume III*, published 1916.)

Getty Images

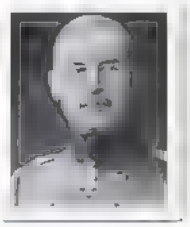
A SERGEANT IN ONE OF THE FIELD HOSPITALS DESCRIBED TRYING TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE ON THE BEACH AS "A TASK TO MAKE ANGELS WEEP"

GIBSON'S GALLIPOLI

A FILM OF THE CAMPAIGN, SIMPLY ENTITLED *GALLIPOLI*, WAS RELEASED IN 1981. DIRECTOR PETER WEIR'S POIGNANT PORTRAYAL HELPED TO LAUNCH THE CAREER OF ITS LEADING MAN, MEL GIBSON.

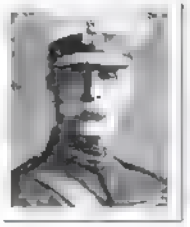
▶ HORATIO HERBERT KITCHENER

The Secretary of State for War, Kitchener was one of the few people to foresee a long conflict, and organised the largest volunteer army the world had ever seen. He was blamed for the shortage of shells in 1915, one of the events that led to the formation of a coalition Government.



▶ OTTO LIMAN VON SANDERS

A skilled commander for the Ottoman Empire during the First World War, Von Sanders succeeded in forcing the Allies to evacuate the Dardanelles, preventing a seizure of Constantinople. His Ottoman 5th Army was the best on the Gallipoli peninsula, with 84,000 well-equipped soldiers.



▶ FREDERICK HAMMERSLEY

In charge of the 11th (Northern) Division, Hammersley led the landing at Suvla Bay. However, the Dardanelles Commission criticised his command, deeming his orders to be confusing and ineffective. He was removed from the frontline and replaced by Edward Fanshawe.

▶ FREDERICK WILLIAM STOPFORD

As General Officer Commanding IX Corps, Stopford was blamed for the failure to attack following the Suvla Bay landing. He was largely unsuited to the job due to his age, and his commands were given from an off-shore battleship. However, Kitchener is considered partially at fault for appointing Stopford.

▶ ELLIS ASHMEAD-BARTLETT

Through his criticism of the campaign, Ashmead-Bartlett was instrumental in bringing about Ian Hamilton's dismissal. Working for *The Daily Telegraph*, he covered the 25 April landing at Anzac Cove, and soon began claiming that Allied attacks were amateurish and under-prepared in execution.

▶ KEITH MURDOCH

A journalist for *The Sydney Sun*, Murdoch agreed to take a letter written by Ashmead-Bartlett to British Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, containing sensitive criticisms of the Gallipoli campaign. However, upon reaching France, he was arrested and the letter was seized. So Murdoch wrote his own letter to Asquith.

▶ CHARLES MONRO

Within days of replacing Hamilton as Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Monro ordered the evacuation of troops from Gallipoli, recommending to Lord Kitchener that the peninsula be freed of troops due to his belief that the war could only be won on the Western Front.

Above **British Secretary of War Lord Horatio Herbert Kitchener visits the trenches at Gallipoli**

an Anglo-Saxon bayonet in him at five minutes after five am on April 25". At home, the War Secretary's assessment had been "a masterpiece of organisation, ingenuity and courage", and "though the enemy is being constantly reinforced, the news from this front is thoroughly satisfactory". Newspaper commentators offered further comfort. On 29 May, Archibald Hurd assured readers of *The Manchester Guardian* that, despite the sinking of naval ships and the possibility of more losses to come, "There is no occasion for alarm."

But the public was growing sceptical of official cheerleaders – the campaign was taking a great deal longer than had been expected. Increasingly, the casualty roll-calls in the newspapers included men who had been hit in the fighting at Gallipoli. Letters were printed that described the condition of the wounded who were lucky enough to make it to the military hospitals in Mudros and Cairo (albeit couched in terms of praise for their good treatment there). Even the newspaper dispatches allowed through by the censor were less positive than the presentations coming from officialdom

Costly fiasco

In the squalid conditions at Gallipoli itself, disease was rampant and perhaps half of the men were unfit for duties. Ashmead-Bartlett concluded that the attack had been amateurish in style and under-prepared in execution. The mission, he decided, was well-nigh impossible. In September – a month after Uncle Charlie's death – Ashmead-Bartlett decided he'd put up with it for long enough. He had already taken the opportunity during a visit home to call on Herbert Asquith, and had informed the Prime Minister that official accounts of the campaign gave a very misleading impression. Things were not going well.

In early September, after returning to the theatre of operations and being begged by disillusioned officers to tell the truth, he persuaded a visiting Australian reporter, Keith Murdoch (father of Rupert), who was travelling to London, to smuggle a letter to Asquith. Apologising for disturbing the Prime Minister, Ashmead-Bartlett described the latest British offensive as "the most ghastly and costly fiasco in our history since the Battle of Bannockburn". Lives were being squandered, morale was appalling and the commanders despised. Unfortunately, his whistle-blowing plan did not remain a secret. Years later, Ashmead-Bartlett discovered that his conversation with Murdoch had been overheard by another correspondent, Henry Nevinson, who informed General Hamilton. When Keith Murdoch landed in Marseilles on his way to London, he was promptly arrested and the letter seized.

Murdoch now sat down and wrote his own letter, to the Prime Minister of Australia, Andrew Fisher. His account of the situation in Gallipoli made Ashmead-Bartlett's seem inhibited. The Generals were inept, conceited and complacent. The staff were bunglers. The volunteers of Kitchener's army were miserable; physically and mentally inferior not merely to Australians but to the average Turk: at Suvla Bay, British officers had been ordered to shoot their own men to prevent formations dithering. Now, after weeks of achieving almost nothing, the soldiers were utterly demoralised. "You would refuse to believe that these men were really British soldiers," said Murdoch. "They show an atrophy of mind and body that is appalling." Morale was dreadful. "Sedition is talked round every tin of bully beef on the peninsula."

Some of this was rubbish – there had, for example, been no order to officers to shoot their own men. But there was enough truth in it not merely to rock the boat but to sink it. Somehow, Murdoch's explosive document found its way into the hands of Lloyd George, who didn't care for Kitchener and had decided the campaign was a foolish irrelevance. This presented Kitchener with a real dilemma. He was already attempting to root out every available soldier for a new offensive on the Western Front. He could see French commitment to the Dardanelles campaign waning by the week, and it was abundantly clear that the much-sought-for breakthrough had failed to occur. And yet he had ordered that, once embarked upon, there could be no letting up until victory. An honest appraisal would have led him to the conclusion that he had never given the campaign the resources or backing it needed. Instead, Kitchener decided to change the commanding General.

In October, he sacked Hamilton. The closest the General would get to active service again would be when he was appointed to Sir Frederick Stopford's old job as Lieutenant of the Tower of London in 1918. Hamilton's replacement was General Sir Charles Monro, who had dismissed the Dardanelles "sideshow" from the start and needed only a three-day visit to the British toeholds in Turkey to conclude that their inadequate trenches, exposure to enemy shellfire and hopeless artillery positions comprised "a line possessing every possible military defect" – the only thing to do was abandon the whole mission and get out as soon as possible. Churchill, who had been such a forceful advocate of the Dardanelles operation, commented tartly that, "He came, he saw, he capitulated." Kitchener could still mesmerise the public, but he was now looking like a liability to many of the politicians in the Cabinet. He resisted attempts to remove him from the War Office, but agreed to travel to the Dardanelles to judge for himself. Seeing the situation with his own eyes finally convinced the War Secretary that Monro was right: there was nothing for it but to cut Allied losses and evacuate

KITCHENER COULD STILL MESMERISE THE PUBLIC BUT HE WAS NOW LOOKING LIKE A LIABILITY TO MANY OF THE POLITICIANS IN THE CABINET

Devastating criticism

As soon as he returned to London, Kitchener tried to tender his resignation as War Secretary, but Asquith talked him out of it. There was worse to come for the poor soldiers at Gallipoli. At the end of November, a winter storm struck and, in addition to hunger, dysentery and Turkish fire, the soldiers lived in

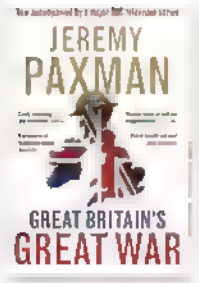
the midst of snow and ice. Finally, in early December – a full five weeks after General Monro's recommendation – the Cabinet reached a decision to abandon the whole operation. On 18 December, the British began a remarkably successful evacuation in which over 80,000 men were spirited away to sea with virtually no casualties. Nothing so became the invasion of Turkey as the leaving of it. All told, the Gallipoli adventure had cost the lives of over 29,000 British soldiers, nearly 10,000 French, over 11,000 Australians and New Zealanders, and almost 2,000 Indians.

Over 20 years later, when the US Army attempted to house-train the future Second World War commander George "Old Blood and Guts" Patton by sending him to staff college, he was asked to write a dissertation on the Gallipoli campaign. He made a number of points, among them the observation that it was not particularly sensible during a night operation to try to protect your soldiers from friendly fire by making them wear white patches on their uniform, since it made them identifiable to snipers. But his most devastating criticism was reserved for the British commanders. "It was not the Turkish Army which defeated the British – it was Von Sanders, Kemal Pasha and Major Willmer who defeated Hamilton, Stopford, Hammersley... Had the two sets of commanders changed sides, it is believed that the landing would have been as great a success as it was a dismal failure."

It was a characteristically aggressive analysis: better leadership might have won the day. There is something in it, although the truth is probably that the more experienced Turks outclassed the Allies at every level. But Kitchener could only use the Generals he had available, and the plain fact was that they weren't up to the job. The levels of incompetence displayed make it hard to consider the entire venture as anything other than a misguided, irrelevant and costly sideshow that wasted scarce resources and undermined morale. The campaign demonstrated the chasm between the young men who had volunteered to fight the war and the old men who directed it. Its failure meant that the British were now more than ever committed to the trenches of the Western Front and to a victory of attrition. If, indeed, the war could be won at all.

WAR ON THE WEB THERE IS A WEBSITE DEDICATED TO THE ANZAC FORCES' PARTICIPATION AT GALLIPOLI, WITH PHOTOS AND EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS. VISIT IT AT WWW ANZACSITE.GOV.AU

As Naval Chief of Staff to Vice-Admiral Sackville Carden, Commodore Roger Keyes (far right) was heavily involved in the Gallipoli campaign. Here, he is seen walking on the beach on the final day of the Allied evacuation of the peninsula



This feature is an edited extract from the book *Great Britain's Great War* by Jeremy Paxman. Published by Viking Press, it is available from both high-street and online book stores, RRP £25.

Available in WH Smith and all good newsagents*

or online at www.vintagerockmag.com

*Also available at Barnes & Noble USA and import stockists worldwide

Anthem FROM THE MAKERS OF *HISTORY OF WAR* MAGAZINE

Back to the past

BOTH SIDES NOW

First World War: Exploring war from the perspectives of opposing sides can be an engrossing and enlightening experience. Giving you the opportunity to do just that is a new battlefield tour – Fritz and Tommy. Paul Dimery decided to take a look...

WHEN IT COMES TO LEARNING military history in school, there is often a problem of impartiality – or, rather, a lack of it. Here in Britain, it's rare to study war accounts from anything other than our own side's perspective (whether this is down to ignorance on the part of the teaching staff or a lack of knowledge is open to debate). And some US schools have gone one step further, bending the truth entirely – I remember meeting a student from Kansas City who was adamant that the Second World War began with the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941!

The downside to this bias, of course, is that we miss the opportunity to garner a well-rounded appraisal of certain conflicts: the tactical approaches of Britain's foes; the cultural impact war had on those countries; not to mention the personalities of the soldiers fighting for the other side, who are often demonised as cold, emotionless killers, when many – like our own men and women – were thrust into the field of combat against their will and better judgement.

HERE IN BRITAIN, IT'S RARE TO STUDY WAR ACCOUNTS FROM ANYTHING OTHER THAN OUR OWN SIDE'S PERSPECTIVE

The battlefield visit we are looking at this month goes some way to correcting the balance. Called Fritz and Tommy (the nicknames German and British soldiers gave to each other during the First and Second World Wars), this brand new tour is at once poignant and fascinating. It takes in three key First World War sites on the Western Front – Flanders, northern France and the Somme – and explores how the conflict evolved on both sides of no man's land. In this, the centenary of the start of the war, there's no better time to expand your knowledge while paying tribute to those who lost their lives in a conflict that seemed to never end.

Departing Britain by coach, the five-day tour begins in Flanders in northern Belgium. This area saw some of the greatest loss of life during the First World War, and the "Flandern" operations are still a byword for sacrifice in Germany today. The excursion explores how the nation commemorated its dead here, with visits to the German cemeteries at Vladslo and Langemarck. There will be time to appreciate the moving "Grieving Parents" statues ▶

The Christmas truce, when both sides' soldiers ceased fighting to play football against each other, is immortalised by this memorial at Et Yron, Belgium

Where once there was gunfire and misery, now there is serenity and reflection: a German cemetery in northern France

by German sculptor Käthe Kollwitz, and also learn about the "Langemarck myth". This was a story published in German newspapers to raise morale in the country, at a time when many citizens were opposed to the war effort. According to their reports – which were later "corroborated" by Adolf Hitler in his 1925 book *Mein Kampf* – "young regiments broke forward with the song *Deutschland Uber Alles* against the frontline of enemy positions, and took them. Approximately 2,000 men of the French infantry line were captured, along with six machine guns." This has since been widely dismissed, however. For a start, *Deutschland Uber Alles* did not become the recognised German national anthem until 1922. And besides, it's unlikely that soldiers charging through a battlefield with fixed bayonets would have been in any position to break into song

From here, the tour continues along the Menin Road, examining the pivotal skirmishes around Gheluvelt, where future *führer* Adolf Hitler fought in 1914 and may have been taken prisoner by a British Victoria Cross hero! After lunch at Hooge, it takes in German bunkers on the Ypres battlefield, their trench system at Bayernwald

THE TOUR VISITS GHELUVELT, WHERE HITLER FOUGHT IN 1914 AND MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN PRISONER BY A VC HERO!

and their mining operations on the Messines Ridge. Then the focus returns to Hitler with a visit to the crypt where he sheltered and the farm he visited after his armies had conquered Europe in 1914. The day ends with an in-depth look at the story of the infamous Christmas truce, exploring some of the myths from both sides, as well as a visit to the grave of a German officer buried in a British cemetery. His story is a fascinating one, and ties together much of Germany's history from the 20th Century

Day two sees the tour veer into northern France. You'll get to see the ground near Wervicq Sud where Adolf Hitler was gassed in October 1918, before exploring the Fromelles battlefield from both sides – the German defences as well as the Australian quarters. Following lunch in Bethune, there's time to pay respects at the grave of First World War British fighter pilot Albert Ball VC, who crashed behind German lines and was buried by his foe with full military honours, with many senior German officers in attendance. The day ends with a recollection of the fighting that took place near Arras and Vimy Ridge, as well as a visit to the vast German cemetery at La Targette. ▶

Classic Image/Alamy

The final full day takes in the Somme, where some of the bloodiest battles of the war took place (during the initial Battle of the Somme – fought between July and November 1916 – it's estimated that more than a million men were wounded or killed). The tour starts at Copse 125, a wood where German soldier writer Ernst Junger (see right) fought in 1918 opposite a force of New Zealanders. These included "the King of No Man's Land", Dick Travis – so named because he was said to know the neutral territory ("every sap and shell-hole") better than he knew his own trenches. On Hawthorn Ridge, the tour looks at how Württemberg troops repulsed the British attack from this position in the early stages of the Battle of the Somme. Following lunch at Thiepval and a look at the German 180th Regiment that resided there in 1916, it's on to Poziéres to visit the German "Gibraltar" bunker, captured by the Australians that same year. At Courcelette, the tour looks at the use of British tanks against the Germans, and there's a visit to a forgotten German headstone. Then it's a drive to Guillemont, where the focus returns to Ernest Jünger, contrasting his experience of the fighting there in 1916 with British soldier writer Francis Hitchcock (who immortalised his recollections of the war in *Stand To – A Diary of the Trenches 1915-1918*. The day – and the tour – finishes with a visit to the Museum of the Great War in Peronne, paying particular attention to the German side of its collection.

The Fritz and Tommy tour can be an intense, emotional experience. It's one thing reading about the devastation that occurred in places like Flanders and the Somme; it's another to actually stand where those brave men fell, with the sound of bullets and the screams of their comrades ringing in their ears. Whatever the weather, it's an all-encompassing experience – in the heat, one can imagine what it must have been like to lay wounded in a shell-hole in the baking sun, not knowing which would come first: help or death. In a downpour, you can almost hear the sound of raindrops pinging off the soldiers' steel helmets. Then there's the story of the Hawthorn Ridge mine – 40,000lb worth of explosives detonated by the Royal Engineers on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. You may have seen the film footage, but what that doesn't reveal is the Germans' experience of the explosion: how those who survived reacted, and the physical and psychological impact they suffered. This is something the tour explores in detail using eyewitness accounts and contemporary findings.

Helping out with this is German historian Rob Schafer, whose expertise – not to mention his collection of rare First World War photographs and other objects – is combined with that of Head Battlefield Guide Paul Reed to present a colourful and balanced depiction of what happened during those few fateful years.

Says Reed, "If you want to use the centenary period to discover new angles to the Great War, the Fritz and Tommy tour is for you. It presents the conflict from both angles, giving us the chance to bring in lesser-known battlefield locations and examine existing ones in a fresh light."

From gun to pen

Ernst Jünger was made of stern stuff. Having already served in North Africa with the French Foreign Legion (whom he'd signed up with after running away from home as a teenager), he joined the German army's campaign on the Western Front. Despite being wounded seven times, he managed to serve with distinction and was awarded Prussia's highest military accolade at the time, the Pour Le Mérite. He went on to describe his experiences in the Great War in his 1920 book, *Storm Of Steel* – a work that was accused of glorifying conflict – and in the ensuing years he wrote for several right-wing nationalist journals (though he never endorsed the Nazi Party).

Jünger fought for his country again in the Second World War, although this time in an administrative position. Stationed in Paris, he socialised with some of the prominent artists of the day, including Picasso and Jean Cocteau. He wrote about this period in his 1949 book, *Reflections*.

In 1984, he effectively renounced his earlier beliefs when he called the ideology of war in Germany before and after the First World War a "calamitous mistake". He died in 2009, a year after converting to Catholicism. He was 102.

Fritz and Tommy tour

Leger Holidays will be running two Fritz and Tommy tours in 2014 – starting on 29 September (£439 per person) and 20 October (£419 per person). These prices include coach travel and accommodation, and are based on two passengers sharing a standard room. Please note: there will be £20 off the price if your trip is booked before 30 April. Please quote reference BB17.

For further details, call 0844 324 9256 or visit www.visitbattlefields.co.uk

BATTLEFIELD TOURS by Leger

A collection of rare photographs will help to bring the stories of both Allied and German troops to life. Here, German soldiers pose for a picture before heading into battle

For all you need to know about Italy

ITALIA!
www.italytravelandlife.com
LIFE IN SICILY
Enjoy beautiful towns, calming waters and a quiet pace of life on one of Italy's island gems
PUGLIA FOR GOURMETS
Taste special regional treats
Venice by bike & boat
See the city from a new perspective
ESCAPE TO LE MARCHE
48 hours in Ascoli Piceno
THE UK'S AWARD-WINNING MAGAZINE ABOUT ITALY

ONLY £4.40 PER ISSUE

ANTHEM.SUBSCRIBEONLINE.CO.UK/ITALIA

find us on facebook and twitter

Military MILESTONES

MISSILES

In terms of projectile warfare, the human race has come a long way since the days of **launching hot sand at invading forces**. *History Of War* traces some of the major missile developments...

1000AD CHINESE FIRE ARROWS

Having invented gunpowder, the Chinese eventually fathomed a way to utilise it in a military theatre. They attached bamboo tubes containing gunpowder to long arrows (the length increased stability), then launched them with bows. With a range of up to 1,000 feet, they are thought to have been first used in combat by the Southern Wu during the siege of Yuzhang in 904AD. In the 13th Century, the Chinese found that the tubes could launch themselves using the power produced by the escaping gas – creating the world's first rocket.

1926 LIQUID-FUELLED ROCKETS

While studies had been carried out on the practicality of liquid-fuelled rockets since the 19th Century, US professor Robert H Goddard was the first person to actually launch one. In 1926, his rocket, "Nell" (pictured with Goddard), spent just two and a half seconds in the air, rising 41 feet at a speed of 60mph, before crashing into a cabbage field. Goddard was ridiculed by the public for his efforts, but in truth he had made giant steps towards ushering in the space age.

500 | 0 | 500 | 1000 | 1500 | 1900 | 1905 | 1910 | 1920 | 1930 | 1945

400BC EARLIEST THERMAL PROJECTILES

French historian Jean Juvénal des Ursins identified the importance of missiles when, following Henry V's firing of Meaux in 1421, he wrote, "War without fire is like sausages without mustard." But this wasn't a revolutionary idea, and thermal projectiles had already been around for hundreds of years. As early as 800BC, defending forces would throw boiling water or hot sand over castle walls to repel invaders, while sulphur- or oil-soaked materials would be attached to spears and arrows, ignited and launched. These were capable of inflicting huge damage on wooden structures, though they did give away one's position if used under the cover of darkness, and were also erratic in wet weather.

Getty Images

1780 MYSOREAN ROCKETS

In the 18th Century, the Mysoreans ascertained that by protecting propellant with a steel casing, their missiles could attain greater thrust and a longer reach (up to 2km). They deployed these new weapons against the British East India Company in the Battle of Pollilur in 1780, resulting in the destruction of their enemy's stores and its ultimate defeat. Following Mysorean leader Tipu Sultan's death in the fourth Anglo-Mysore War, the remaining rockets were confiscated and used by Sir William Congreve, an inventor with the Royal Arsenal, to develop further weapons. The result was the Congreve rocket, fired during the Napoleonic Wars.

1941 KATYUSHA ROCKET LAUNCHER

First fielded by the Soviets during the Second World War, this multi-launching device could quickly deliver anything from 14 to 48 rockets to a specific target area. Usually mounted on a truck, the "Little Kate" was able to deliver its blow, then move on before being located and attacked with counter-fire. So deadly was the launcher – and so eerie was the sound of its missiles howling through the air – that it had a considerable psychological impact on German troops, who labelled it "Stalin's organ". Their one beacon of hope was that it took a long time to reload and wasn't always accurate.

Getty Images

1944 V-2 ROCKET

Recognised as the progenitor of modern rockets, the German V-2 was the world's first long-range ballistic missile. Standing at 46-feet high and with a velocity of 3,500mph, it was developed by Wernher Von Braun and presented by the Nazi propaganda machine as retaliation for the bombing of German cities. Beginning in September 1944, more than 3,000 were launched at Allied targets – principally London and Antwerp. The V-2 was also the first missile to reach outer space and, in 1946, the first photograph of Earth was taken from one of the rockets. Von Braun went on to work for NASA, where he helped to develop the Saturn V booster rocket.

Getty Images

1979 EXOCET

The French-built Exocet (above) is one of the world's most iconic missiles – and such has been its success in combat situations that variants are still in service today. Taking its name from the Latin word *exocoetus* (roughly translated as "flying fish"), it's an anti-ship missile designed to destroy small to medium craft – though larger ships can be sunk with multiple hits. Launched from surface vessels, submarines, helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, it's guided in mid-flight and switches on active radar late on to find and hit its target. Due to the missile's low altitude during ingress (just 1-2m above the sea surface), it typically cannot be detected by its target until it is 6,000m from impact.

TOP SECRET

2014 WU-14 HYPERSONIC GLIDE VEHICLE

The Chinese have come a long way since those early fire arrows. While they are notoriously secretive about their missile programme, reports abound that they have followed other nations, including the USA and Russia, in building an HGV (Hypersonic Glide Vehicle). It is believed that the WU-14 will be capable of travelling 62 miles above the Earth's surface, before zooming back into the atmosphere at up to 7,680mph – much too fast for any potential enemy to activate its missile-defence system. Frightening stuff, indeed.

1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010

1957 BOEING CIM-10 BOMARC

Such was the paranoia brought about by the Cold War that, in 1957, the US developed a long-range anti-aircraft missile – the world's first – to intercept any Soviet planes that might fly over its air space in the event of a full-scale conflict. Standing at 45-feet tall and with a top speed of around 1,900mph, the missiles were housed in launch shelters in remote areas of the US and Canada. And they were primed for quick deployment, each one fitted with an alert signal that, when triggered, could fire the missile within 30 seconds. In 1960, a Bomarc fitted with a nuclear warhead caught fire at a launch site, causing contamination, and the missile was retired in 1972.

1983 BGM-109 TOMAHAWK

Named after a Native American axe, the all-weather, subsonic Tomahawk is a ship- or submarine-launched missile designed to hit targets on land. It is initially deployed from a booster rocket, before a small turbofan engine takes over and the missile is directed towards land by its inertial-guidance system. Upon reaching shore, a more precise guidance method known as TERCOM (Terrain Countour Matching) takes over. The 20-foot missile, which flies at up to 550mph and has a range of 470 nautical miles, is a nightmare for those on the receiving end, due to its ability to twist and turn, and thus evade radar detection. The US Navy is believed to have around 2,000 Tomahawks.

Mary Evans Picture Library

PART ONE

FRANCE
Revolution to Empire

French Revolution: In 1879 in France, the demands of commoners for political rights and an end to noble privilege erupted into full-scale revolution. By 1792, the country had been declared a republic, which it remained until 1804 when Napoleon was crowned Emperor. The revolution ignited a series of wars, which were both an ideological conflict between the revolution and its enemies, and a continuation of the power struggle between European states

SHOCK TACTICS

Napoleon's large armies moved swiftly by forced marches, living off the countryside. When battle was joined, success often depended on superior manoeuvre – for example, destroying a weaker part of the enemy's army and then turning with full force on the now-outnumbered remainder. The French leader's ruthlessly aggressive application of power on the battlefield – the cannonade by heavy artillery, the infantry attack in dense columns and the mass cavalry charge – ensured that casualty rates were high on both sides. For example, at the battle of Borodino in 1812, there were around 74,000 casualties in one day. Napoleon saw no need to conserve manpower, figuring that more could always be raised by conscription

▶ **NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, 1769-1821**

Born in Corsica, Napoleon was an artillery officer whose readiness to suppress street disturbances in Paris in 1795 earned him command of an army. His military successes gave him the chance to seize political power, culminating in his assumption of the title of Emperor in 1804. Napoleon won almost all of the 50 battles he fought. A natural gambler, he even attempted a return to power from exile on Elba in 1815. However, defeat at Waterloo (see last issue) led to his imprisonment on St Helena, where he died.

CITIZEN ARMY

The dominance achieved by the French army during this turbulent period was rooted in the pre-Revolution era. A royal war councillor, the Comte de Guibert, envisaged a "citizen army" that would fight decisive, combined arms campaigns based on mobility and aggression, and the royal army's inspector of artillery, Jean-Baptiste de Gribeauval, endowed France with mobile and accurate cannons commanded by trained artillery officers, including Napoleon Bonaparte. The most radical period of the Revolution, from 1792 to 1794, made a citizen army a reality. The constitution of June 1793 declared, "All Frenchmen shall be soldiers; all shall be trained to arms." The following August, 300,000 troops were raised by conscription, but it was declared the duty of every citizen to participate in the war effort.

▶ ARMED WOMEN On 5 October 1789, women armed with pikes, axes and muskets marched on King Louis XVI's Palace of Versailles to complain about the high price and scarcity of bread. The women were joined by a mob of thousands and the march became a symbol of the struggle of poor folk against the rich, a defining moment of the Revolution

▲ FLINTLOCK PISTOL The pistol was primarily a cavalry weapon at the time of the Napoleonic Wars. This is the British Army's New Land Pattern pistol, introduced in 1814

INSTRUMENT OF POWER

Conscripts, revolutionary volunteers and the old royal army were amalgamated into mass armies supplied by an expanding state armaments industry. Extreme revolutionary gestures such as the election of officers were abandoned in favour of formal discipline and hierarchy, but revolutionary and patriotic enthusiasm distinguished French troops from their foes. Men of all social backgrounds were able to win rapid promotion on merit. This was the context for the rise of Napoleon, who turned the army into a formidable agent of personal ambition. Creating self-contained, combined-arms formations, he followed an offensive strategy, seeking out and attacking the enemy in pursuit of victory.

▶ MEDAL OF VICTORY The British Waterloo Medal celebrates the defeat in 1815 that marked the end of Napoleon's career

EXTREME REVOLUTIONARY GESTURES WERE ABANDONED IN FAVOUR OF FORMAL DISCIPLINE AND HIERARCHY

◀ MARSHAL OF FRANCE Michel Ney, one of Napoleon's 26 Marshals, was a mere Sergeant-Major at the outbreak of the French Revolutionary Wars

▼ BRASS CANNON Napoleon saw this gun as a crucial battle-winner, not a support weapon. "It is with cannon that one makes war," he said

FRENCH DEFEAT

Britain, France's most consistent enemy, was dominant at sea throughout the Napoleonic Wars. On land, Napoleon suffered a steady drain on his resources in the Peninsular War, where he faced Spanish guerrillas and British intervention. He over-reached himself with the 1812 invasion of Russia, and the retreat from Moscow destroyed his army. Learning from the French, other states enlarged their forces – though only the Prussians began conscription – and improved their tactics. Not as brilliant as Napoleon, they nevertheless became increasingly capable of taking on the French and finally won out. The French monarchy was restored in 1814, and Napoleon's gamble at Waterloo the following year was a doomed effort.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY WARS

THE WARS BETWEEN REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE and a varying coalition of European powers began in 1792 as resistance to an invasion intended to restore the authority of the French monarchy, but evolved into a crusade to spread the principles of the Revolution. A by-product of this was an aggressive expansion of France's borders. From 1793, under the inspired direction of Lazare Carnot, the hundreds of thousands of new recruits raised by mass mobilisation – the *levée en masse* – were amalgamated with old regulars to form a national army full of revolutionary enthusiasm. In Napoleon Bonaparte, they found a General of genius to lead them. But the limit to French power remained the sea, where Britain was dominant.

VALMY

In April 1792, France declared war on Austria and Prussia. Coalition forces (Prussian, Austrian, Hessian and French *emigrés*) advanced into France in August. The Prussian Commander, the Duke of Brunswick, took Verdun on 3 September and then marched on Paris. Two French armies, commanded by Charles Dumouriez and François-Christophe Kellermann, failed to stop Brunswick passing through the wooded heights of the Argonne and on into the west. With the road to Paris open in front of him, Brunswick chose to turn to engage the French, fearing to continue the advance with enemy armies across his lines of communication. Brunswick's army met French forces under Kellermann, drawn up on the heights of Valmy. Subjected to heavy artillery fire, the French soldiers stood firm. When the Coalition infantry advanced, it was the turn of the French artillery to show its effectiveness in breaking up the assault. Brunswick soon decided that, since the French were not going to run away, his best course was to withdraw while his forces, already racked by disease, were still relatively intact. Although more a drawn stand-off than a serious battle, Valmy was hailed as a great victory and the salvation of the Revolution.

▲ **EPOCH-MAKING BATTLE** **This painting shows French positions by the mill at Valmy coming under intense artillery fire from Coalition forces. The German poet Goethe, who was present at the battle, described it as the beginning of "a new era in world history"**

The facts

DATE 20 September 1792

LOCATION Eastern France

FORCES French: 30,000; Coalition: 30,000-40,000

CASUALTIES French: 300 killed, Coalition: 200 killed

JEMAPPES

In early November 1792, Charles Dumouriez advanced into the Austrian Netherlands (Belgium) with the Armée du Nord. It was while doing so that he came across an Austrian army, led by Duke Albert of Saxe-Teschen, at Jemappes, just outside Mons. The Austrians were heavily outnumbered but, occupying strong defensive positions, they were not going to be a pushover.

The battle began with a three-hour French artillery barrage that had little effect on the Austrian defence. Frustrated, Dumouriez then launched a series of frontal assaults, but the fire of Austrian cannons and Tyrolean Jägers armed with rifles, as well as cavalry counter-attacks, repeatedly drove his army back. The Austrians, gallant until the end, were eventually swamped by force of numbers and retreated briskly. By the end of the year, France had occupied the Austrian Netherlands.

As for Duke Albert, as the French Revolution progressed, he eventually fled to Laeken Palace in Brussels (the present-day home of the Belgian royal family), and it was here that he began to indulge his love of fine art. In his remaining years, he amassed a vast collection of drawings and paintings, which can now be seen in the Albertina Museum in Vienna.

The facts

DATE 6 November 1792

LOCATION North of Mons, eastern Belgium

FORCES French: 40,000-45,000; Austrian: 13,000-25,000

CASUALTIES French: 2,000-4,000 killed or wounded; Austrian: 4,500 killed or wounded

▼ **FIELD ARTILLERY** **Due to the exhaustive reforming efforts of General Jean-Baptiste de Gribeauval (1715-89), the French army's guns were more accurate and mobile than those of their enemies**

TOULON

By August 1793, the revolutionaries were at war with Britain and Spain as well as Austria and Prussia, and large parts of France were now in the hands of royalist rebels. After royalists invited an Anglo-Spanish fleet under Admirals Samuel Hood and Juan de Lángara to occupy the port of Toulon, French forces laid siege to the town, seeking to take the forts of Mount Faron, which dominated the city to the east. A junior artillery officer – a certain Napoleon Bonaparte – devised a plan to drive out the fleet by seizing high ground dominating the harbour, thus exposing the enemy to artillery fire. The French took Fort Mulgrave, the key to possession of this ground, on 17 December. As Napoleon had predicted, the following day Hood was obliged to evacuate and pull out his fleet.

The facts

DATE 27 August-19 December 1793

LOCATION Toulon, on France's Mediterranean coast

FORCES Some 18,000 British, Spanish and Piedmontese inside Toulon

CASUALTIES No reliable estimates

▼ **NAPOLEON AT THE SIEGE** **The French leader's reputation was made at the siege of Toulon. He was promoted from Captain to Brigadier-General in just four months**

AIR WARFARE

The French established the world's first air force, the Compagnie d'Aéronautique, in 1794. A hydrogen balloon, the Entreprenant, was deployed on 2 June of that year at Maubeuge, where it was used for reconnaissance during an enemy bombardment and remained aborne for nine hours. However, reports of its success varied and, while three more balloons went into service, Napoleon eventually decided that aerial warfare was not the way forward, and the company disbanded in 1799

NAPOLEON DECIDED THAT AERIAL WARFARE WAS NOT THE WAY FORWARD

FLEURUS

From the autumn of 1793, the French revolutionaries regained the initiative in their war against the Coalition of foreign powers and against royalists in France. In June 1794, General Jourdan laid siege to the Belgian city of Charleroi. Austrian and Dutch forces, plus a sprinkling of British, under the Prince of Saxe-Coburg, advanced to relieve the city

Despite being fewer in number, the Coalition forces attacked boldly near the town of Fleurus at daybreak on 26 June. Saxe-Coburg's forces attacked in five columns, those on the left and right driving back the French at each end of their line. Jourdan, however, had the unprecedented advantage of aerial reconnaissance, as his hydrogen balloon, Entreprenant, floated above the battlefield. The crew of two, including the mastermind of the project, Charles Coutelle, stayed in the air for the duration of the battle, sending messages about enemy movements down a cable to the ground. Aided by this impressive view of the battlefield, Jourdan was able to rally his forces on the right and left, and launch an attack through the centre. The Coalition forces were obliged to retreat, although the French, tired and short of ammunition, did not pursue. The victory was nonetheless decisive. The French occupied Belgium, which they would hold for the next 20 years By relaxing the fear of foreign invasion, the victory undermined the extremists of the ruling Committee of Public Safety, which fell in July 1794

▲ **REVOLUTIONARY COMMANDER** General Jourdan, on a white horse, launched his reserves in a decisive counter-attack against the Coalition at the battle of Fleurus

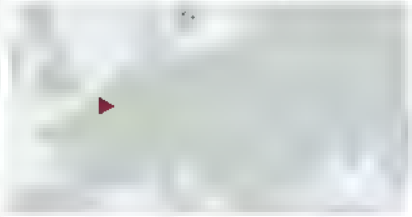
The facts

DATE 26 June 1794

LOCATION North of Charleroi, Belgium

FORCES French: 75,000, Austrian, Dutch and British: 52,000

CASUALTIES French: 4,000 killed, Austrian, Dutch and British: 2,300 killed



ARCOLE

Appointed Commander of the French Army of Italy in 1796, Napoleon Bonaparte proceeded to demonstrate his genius for rapid manoeuvre and decisive attack. In April and May of that year, he defeated Piedmont and drove the Austrians out of most of northern Italy. There followed a long siege of the remaining Austrian stronghold of Mantua, while the Austrians mounted a series of relief attempts.

In November, Napoleon confronted an Austrian army led by Josef Alvintzy near the junction of the Alpone and Adige rivers. By this point, the French army was short of everything from boots to food, but nonetheless took the offensive. Its soldiers made their way across the Adige on 14 November, after which the two armies were separated only by the Alpone. On 15 and 16 November, repeated French attempts to cross this river by the bridge at Arcole were beaten back by Austrian firepower in some ferocious exchanges.

On the 17th, however, French flanking moves convinced Alvintzy that he was threatened with encirclement, and the Austrians retreated. Napoleon went on to rout the Austrians at Rivoli in January 1797, forcing the country to sign the Peace of Campo Formio later that year.

The facts

DATE 15-17 November 1796

LOCATION South-east of Verona, Italy

FORCES French: 20,000, Austrian: 17,000

CASUALTIES French: 4,500; Austrian: 6,000

▼ BRIDGE CROSSING Heroic images, such as this one of Napoleon crossing the Arcole, served as propaganda to promote the leader's personal popularity

CAPE ST VINCENT

In 1796, Spain allied itself with France. The combined strength of the French and Spanish fleets threatened to end British naval superiority and open the way for an invasion of Britain. The British Mediterranean fleet under Admiral Sir John Jervis was given the task of preventing the Spanish from sailing north to join their French allies. On the morning of 14 February 1797, Jervis intercepted a Spanish fleet under Admiral José de Córdova off the coast of Cape St Vincent. Despite having numerically inferior forces, the British sailed in to attack, their line of ships splitting the Spanish forces in two. Commodore Horatio Nelson bravely blocked the escape of the larger body of Spanish ships, at one point engaging seven of them unaided. Four Spanish ships were captured, two of them by Nelson and his crew, and a number of other vessels suffered serious damage in the fracas. The surviving Spanish were blockaded in Cadiz, meaning that plans for an invasion of Britain were scotched.

NEXT MONTH Napoleon's campaign in Egypt and the achievement of French supremacy. **On sale 8 April**

The facts

DATE 14 February 1797

LOCATION Off Cape St Vincent, south-west Portugal

FORCES Spanish: 27 ships; British: 15 ships

CASUALTIES British: 73 killed, 227 wounded. Spanish: 255 killed, 341 wounded, 4 ships captured

◀ WAR ON CANVAS Robert Cleveley's painting Battle of Cape St Vincent captures Nelson's victory

This feature is an edited extract from the book *Battle: A Visual Journey Through 5,000 Years Of Combat*, by RG Grant. Published by Dorling Kindersley, it is available from both high-street and online book stores. RRP £19.99.

Leaders of Men

CRUSADES LEADERS

They were the Medieval men and women who sacrificed their lives – or, in some cases, the lives of others – to win wars and conquer lands in the name of their religion

For as long as there's been religion, there's been religious conflict. And no time period has seen more disturbances than the Middle Ages, when armies claiming to represent Christianity and Islam regularly engaged in bloody warfare to seize control of holy cities in the Middle East and Africa.

After the Muslim Seljuk Turks captured Jerusalem in 1076, they forbade Christian pilgrims to enter the city. So Pope Urban II made an impassioned plea to his subjects to march east and reclaim what he considered to be the Christians' rightful Holy Land. After a false start – the People's Crusade – in which thousands of eager but ill-equipped peasants set off in pursuit of religious vengeance, the First Crusade proper was launched. It was to be the first of nine numbered missions (there were many other, less significant ones) over the next two centuries that would help to shape the world socially, geographically and economically.

So what kind of person does it take to persuade thousands of people to risk life and limb in the name of their god? As *History Of War* discovers, the characters of these men and women varied greatly – some were veteran military campaigners, some relied purely on their heart, and some were just plain schemers...

THE CRUSA
1096-1270

1040AD 1060AD 1080AD 1100AD

1040 1045 1050 1055 1060 1065 1070 1075 1080 1085 1090 1095 1100 1105

All images © maryevans.com unless marked

POPE URBAN II

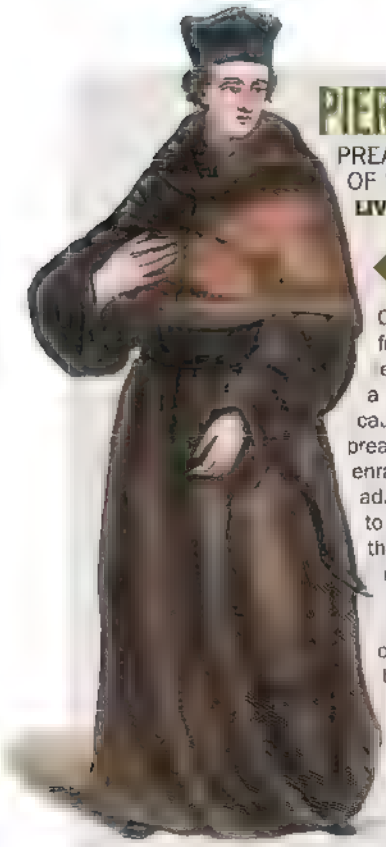
THE MAN WHO INSPIRED THE FIRST CRUSADE

LIVED 1042AD-1099AD

After being elected Pope in 1088, Urban made arguably the most influential speech of the Middle Ages on 27 November 1095, when he called upon every Christian in Europe to wage war against Muslims in order to reclaim the Holy Land - the speech that gave rise to the First Crusade. The feared Seljuk Turks had run amok in the East, conquering Jerusalem and preventing Christians from making pilgrimages to holy sites. When they threatened to take Constantinople, Byzantine Emperor Alexius I pleaded with Urban for help. The Pope saw this as a chance to unite Christian Europe under him. At the Council of Clermont in France, he delivered a rousing speech to several hundred clerics and noblemen, summoning rich and poor alike to put an end to their civil fighting and embark on a righteous war to help their fellow Christians take back Jerusalem. The speech was an overwhelming success: between 60,000 and 100,000 Crusaders responded to his call, adopting his war cry "God wills it!" as they marched on the city. In July 1099, Jerusalem fell in what was later described as "a juxtaposition of extreme violence and anguished faith".

DID YOU KNOW?

Pope Urban II died 14 days after the fall of Jerusalem to the Crusaders. However, as news of the success had yet to reach Italy, he never learned the outcome of the campaign he had ignited.



PIERRE L'ERMITE

PREACHER AND SPIRITUAL LEADER OF "THE PEOPLE'S CRUSADE"

LIVED 1050AD-1115AD

After Pope Urban II made his stirring speech at the Council of Clermont in France, urging Christians to liberate the Holy Land from the Mohammedans (see below left), "Peter the Hermit" became a passionate campaigner for the cause. Venturing out on his donkey, he preached throughout France and Germany, enrapturing hordes of peasants – both adults and children – who saw a mission to Jerusalem as a means of escaping the hardship of their everyday lives. In fact, so enthused were they that thousands ventured off towards Jerusalem months before any organised military campaign, in what became known as "The People's Crusade". Armed with crude weapons at best and lacking any real leadership (for all his goodwill and gusto, Peter was no warlord), they stood little chance. Seeking reinforcements, Peter headed for Constantinople, telling his army to stay put. But, eager for glory, they did not. Entering Civetot, they were surrounded by Turks and ordered to convert to Islam. Those who didn't were slaughtered. When the official First Crusade did make it to Jerusalem, Peter played only a subordinate role, and in 1099 he returned to France, where he lived out the rest of his days at a monastery.

DID YOU KNOW?

Peter the Hermit acquired his nickname as he always wore a hermit's cloak and was consistently dirty due to his ascetic lifestyle.

GODFREY OF BOUILLON

LEADER OF THE FIRST CRUSADE

LIVED 1060AD-1100AD

The son of Eustace II (Count of Boulogne), Godfrey was another to be inspired by Pope Urban II's call to arms. Having served in battle alongside King Henry IV of Germany, he was a highly capable military campaigner and, after taking out loans on, or selling, most of his land, he gathered thousands of knights to overthrow the Muslims. In 1096, the First Crusade proper began, with Godfrey's and three other armies beating a path towards Jerusalem, defeating Muslim forces and conquering lands as they went. After the city was taken in July 1099, Godfrey was pronounced the first King of Jerusalem – although, believing it immoral to be crowned as such in the city where Jesus, the King of Kings, died, he insisted on being referred to as *Advocatus Sancti Sepulchri* (Defender of the Holy Land) until his death from illness in 1100AD. Succeeded by his brother Baldwin I, Godfrey was never forgotten and he was later idolised in legend as "the perfect Christian knight, the peerless hero of the whole Crusading epic".

DID YOU KNOW?

According to legend, Godfrey – said to have been tall of stature and strong beyond compare – once wrestled a bear and won, and beheaded a camel with one blow of his sword. A statue of him still stands today in the Royal Square of Brussels, Belgium.

Getty Images

1120AD 1140AD 1160AD 1180AD

1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180

SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

CAMPAIGNER FOR THE SECOND CRUSADE

LIVED 1090AD-1153AD

Like Urban II and Peter the Hermit before him, Saint Bernard will be remembered as someone who inspired armies of Crusaders through his speeches. Admitted into the Cistercian Order at a young age, he founded Clairvaux monastery in 1115 and his influence within the clergy quickly grew. Indeed, following the death of Pope Honorius II in 1130, Bernard used his power to secure the papacy for Innocent II. When the Christians were defeated at the Siege of Edessa in 1144 – resulting in the loss of the first state conquered during the First Crusade – the Pope showed his respect for his champion when he commissioned him to rally support for a Second Crusade. This Bernard did in March 1146, when he told an enormous crowd in Vézelay, northern France, "Cursed be he who does not stain his sword with blood." His speech was so successful that the previously reluctant crowd enlisted *en masse*. However, the Second Crusade turned out to be a disaster, bringing great shame and guilt on the man who had encouraged it.

DID YOU KNOW?

Saint Bernard founded 163 monasteries throughout Europe, and following his death he was canonised by Pope Alexander III – making him the first Cistercian monk placed on the calendar of Saints.

ENRICO DANDOLO

BLIND WARLORD AND DOGE OF VENICE DURING THE FOURTH CRUSADE

LIVED 1107AD-1205AD

Despite being blind, Dandolo was responsible for redirecting (and effectively ending) the Fourth Crusade. Becoming the Doge of Venice in 1192, he reformed the city's currency and legal system, while seeking stronger ties with western powers. Venetians were the master mariners of the day, so knights of the Fourth Crusade – eager to seize control of the Nile delta and subsequently conquer Muslim-controlled Jerusalem – commissioned them to supply a fleet. However, financially the knights came up short, so Dandolo made an offer: they could have the ships if they helped his forces to attack Venice's trade rivals, Zara and Constantinople. Although both of these were Christian-ruled, most of the Crusaders complied and both cities were brutally sacked (only a small number of Crusaders declined and made their own way to the Holy Land). Dandolo was later remembered as "prudent, discreet and skilled in decision-making". You could probably add scheming to that list.

DID YOU KNOW?

Dandolo was buried in the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. His tomb was later destroyed, either by the Ottoman Turks or the Niceans, but his grave can still be found in the Hagia Sophia Museum, in what is now Istanbul.

ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE

DUCHESS OF AQUITAINE AND QUEEN CONSORT OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND DURING THE SECOND CRUSADE

LIVED 1122AD-1204AD

One of the most powerful people of the Middle Ages, Eleanor inherited vast wealth at just 15 years of age after her father, the Duke of Aquitaine, and only brother both died. That same year, she married King Louis VII of France, and she later joined her husband on the Second Crusade. She arrived dressed as an Amazon, along with 300 of her ladies-in-waiting and a thousand non-noble vassals. The presence of women on the Crusade caused a scandal across Europe but Eleanor insisted that they were only there to tend the wounded (in fact, Eleanor took an active role in strategy meetings). Tensions arose between her and her husband, as she preferred to follow the rule of her Uncle Raymond, the Prince of Antioch. But Louis forced her to follow him on to Jerusalem with his dwindling army – a humiliating feat that stayed with her for the rest of her life. The expedition ultimately failed, and Eleanor and Louis returned home on separate ships. Their marriage was annulled in 1152 and, just two months later, she married Henry, who would become King Henry II of England

DID YOU KNOW?

Following Eleanor's exploits in the Second Crusade, a papal bull in 1189 forbade women from taking part in the Third Crusade. It was widely ignored.

1100AD 1125AD 1150AD 1175AD

1100 1105 1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180 1185

Getty Images

SALAH AL-DIN YUSUF

MUSLIM LEADER DURING THE THIRD CRUSADE

LIVED 1137AD-1193AD

Born into a prominent Kurdish family, Salah al-Din (or Saladin, as he is known in the West) went on to become one of the most admired military leaders in Medieval history, noted for his chivalry and honourable behaviour. In 1169, aged just 32, he was appointed Commander of the Syrian troops in Egypt and, in 1187, he recaptured Jerusalem for the Muslims after defeating the King of Jerusalem at the Battle of Hattin, thereby ending the Europeans' 88-year hold over the city. News of this Muslim victory travelled fast and, before long, three of Europe's greatest leaders – King Philip Augustus of France, King Richard I (the Lionheart) of England and German Emperor Frederick Barbarossa – set out to recover Jerusalem, each at the head of a large army. In 1191, the long siege of Acre was won by the Crusaders, but no more was achieved as they could not defeat the mighty Saladin. As a result, a truce was called between him and Richard I, where it was agreed that Christians were permitted to visit Jerusalem without hassle from Muslims.

DID YOU KNOW?

Saladin was renowned for his knightly virtues – so much so that when his fierce rival Richard the Lionheart was struck down with fever, Saladin sent him a gift of the choicest fruits of the land. Furthermore, after Richard's beloved horse had been killed in battle, Saladin sent him one of his finest Arabian steeds.

RICHARD I (THE LIONHEART)

KING OF ENGLAND DURING THE THIRD CRUSADE

LIVED 1157AD-1199AD

The son of King Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard showed military ability from a young age and was noted for his chivalry and courage. However, he was more concerned with his Crusading endeavours than in governing his country, and spent only six months of his ten-year reign as King in England. After Jerusalem was captured by Saladin in 1187, Richard began to build a new Crusader army – though, having spent most of his father's treasury, he was forced to raise taxes and sell land. Despite winning the Battle of Acre in 1191, Richard was not able to recover Jerusalem and, after making a truce with Saladin, he left for home. But on his way back, he was captured in Austria and imprisoned for two years. Upon his release, he finally arrived back in England, but spent just a month there before leaving for Normandy, never to return.

DID YOU KNOW?

Not just the King of England, Richard I was also the Duke of Normandy, the Duke of Aquitaine, the Duke of Gascony, the Lord of Cyprus, the Count of Anjou, the Count of Maine, the Count of Nantes and the Overlord of Brittany.

FREDERICK II

HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR DURING THE FIFTH AND SIXTH CRUSADES

LIVED 1194AD-1250AD

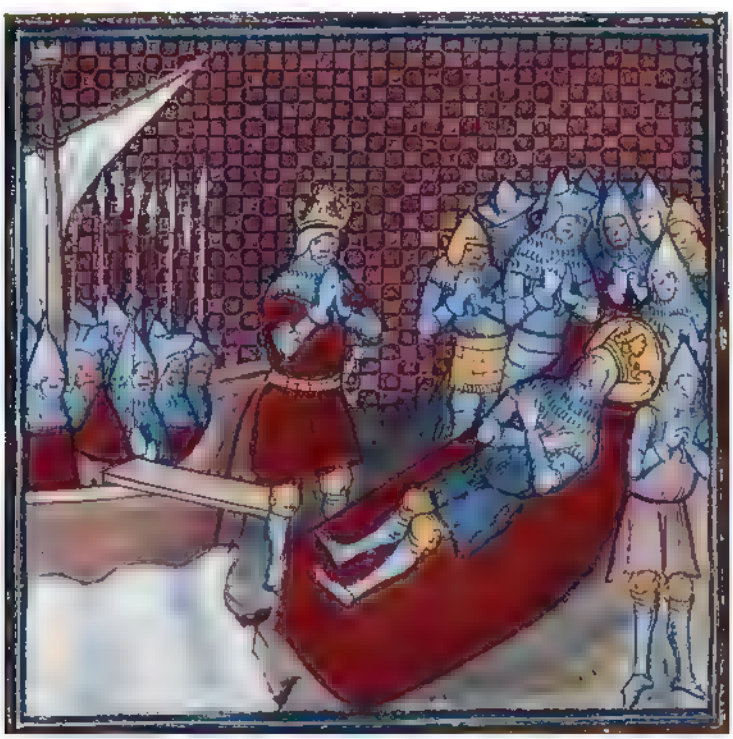
Despite vowing on numerous occasions to join the Fifth Crusade, Frederick failed to show up and, as a consequence, was blamed by Pope Honorius III and the general Christian populace for its failure. In response, he decided to launch a new Crusade – paid for with Holy Roman Empire funds – that would recover Jerusalem and restore his reputation. Recruiting an army, he set sail in 1228. However, his forces were smaller than that of the Fifth Crusade, so rather than engage the powerful Ayyubid Empire in battle, he pretended to have a much larger army in the hope of gaining Jerusalem through diplomacy. His idea worked, as Sultan al-Kamil, who was tied up with other matters in Syria, surrendered the city, along with Nazareth and other towns, in exchange for a ten-year truce. Frederick had achieved what other Crusades before him had failed to: he had recovered Jerusalem, and without force

DID YOU KNOW?

Aged 14, Frederick married a 25-year-old widow – Constance, daughter of the King of Aragon. Two years later, she bore him a child, the future King Henry VII of Germany.

1200AD 1225AD 1250AD 1275AD

1190 1195 1200 1205 1210 1215 1220 1225 1230 1235 1240 1245 1250 1255 1260 1265 1270 1275



LOUIS IX

LEADER OF THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH CRUSADES

LIVED 1214AD-1270AD

King of France between 1226 and 1270, Louis IX led both the Seventh and Eighth Crusades. After Jerusalem had once again fallen into Muslim hands in 1244, and the Sultan of Egypt had seized Damascus, Louis took 100 ships carrying 35,000 men to liberate the Holy Land. However, his army suffered from disease and ill discipline and, following defeat at the Battle of Fariskur, Louis was captured by the Egyptians. Freed upon payment of a huge ransom, he returned to France in 1254. Sixteen years later, after learning of the persecution of Christians in Palestine, he set off on the Eighth Crusade. With his army, he landed in Tunisia early in 1270, but plague struck and Louis himself died from the disease. He was later canonised by Pope Boniface VIII, making him the only King of France ever to be made a Saint.

DID YOU KNOW?

Before embarking on the Seventh Crusade, Louis fell ill with a form of malaria, and family and doctors stood at his bedside preparing for his demise. However, he suddenly roused himself and cried, "The cross! The cross!" – at which point, the cross was laid upon his heart. Within a day or two, he recovered and he decided on a Crusade to the Holy Land as gratitude for his restoration.

USA SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

SUBSCRIBE TO *HISTORY OF WAR* MAGAZINE

SAVE 50%*
when you subscribe

If you're reading *History Of War* from the USA, we've got a special offer just for you!
Take out a subscription today and pay just $29.95 every 6 issues*
– that's just $4.99 an issue (store price $9.99)

PAY JUST $29.95 EVERY 6 ISSUES

DIAL TOLL-FREE
800 428 3003
Use code **USA01**

ORDER ONLINE AT
www.imsnews.com/historyofwar
Use code **USA01**

History Of War subscriptions are handled in North America by IMS News. Call us at local rates, in your hours, and pay in US/Canadian dollars!
*Offer is available to North American orders only, and is on a continuous payment basis until you choose to cancel.

VOICES *from* VIETNAM

Vietnam War: The conflict between the US-backed South Vietnam and the NVA/Viet Cong has been portrayed in numerous films. But a poignant book gives a voice to those who actually took part. *History Of War* takes a look...

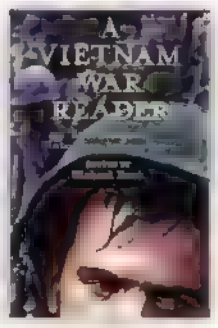
THE VIETNAM WAR, A CONFLICT that effectively lasted from 1956 until US withdrawal in 1975, divided two nations: one literally, another philosophically. Both Vietnam itself and America were torn – the first along the 17th parallel, the latter in public opinion, with as many, if not more, of the population against the anti-communist stance that the US was adopting in South East Asia (resulting in an immense death toll of American men) as for it. Indeed, a high percentage of the soldiers who fought against the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and the Viet Cong were morally opposed to their conscription and the actions they were required to perform by their government. Many of them were young, fearful souls in an alien environment, facing a determined and highly capable fighting force.

Their thoughts, concerns and opinions about their predicament found a voice in the letters they sent home to their girlfriends, wives, parents and other loved ones. Using their pens, they described the true horror of life on the frontline with their M16 assault rifles and grenades. Tragically, many of those men were dead by the time the letters reached their destination.

Following extensive research and uncovering of archives, Michael Hunt (author and Everett H Emerson Professor of History Emeritus at the University of North Carolina) gathered together some of this mail for his book *A Vietnam War Reader*. But what makes this publication even more fascinating is the fact that it includes commentary from both Americans and Vietnamese: as well as letters, there are notes and recollections from military leaders, edicts and orders, diary entries, transcripts of interviews and more. Many of the extracts come with an explanation of what is being spoken about and some background information on the writer.

In this issue of *History Of War*, we present you with a small selection of letters written by US soldiers, as well as interviews with two Saigon loyalists. Some express passion and pride, some contempt, some boredom, but all of them convey the raw emotion of fighting in one of the most devastating conflicts a single nation has suffered.

Over the page, letters from US troops to their loved ones, 1965-67. ▶



This feature is an extract from *A Vietnam War Reader* by Michael Hunt. Copyright © University of North Carolina Press, 2010. The book is published in the UK by Penguin Books, RRP £9.99

Letters from US soldiers

The American units that arrived in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966 as part of Lyndon B Johnson's build-up in the country were brimming with confidence. However, the soldiers – many of whom were in their teens and early 20s – soon began to grasp the challenge of defeating an enemy that chose the time and place of battle, and that enjoyed substantial popular support. On top of this, eating away at their confidence was the strain of daily patrolling, the frustration over Johnson's limited war policy, irritation over growing protest and student demonstrations at home, and a deepening dislike for the Vietnamese people they were there to save.

Some people wonder why Americans are in Vietnam. The way I see the situation, I would rather fight to stop communism in South Vietnam than in Kincaid, Humbolt, Blue Mound or Kansas City, and that is just about what it would end up being. Except for the fact that, by that time, I would be old and grey and my children would be fighting the war. The price for victory is high when life cannot be replaced, but I think it is far better to fight and die for freedom than to live under oppression and fear.

Communism cannot thrive in a society of people who know the whole truth. This war is not going to be won in a day or even a year. This war and others like it will only be won when the children of that nation are educated and can grow in freedom to rule themselves. Last year alone, 4,700 teachers and priests in South Vietnam were killed. This we are trying to stop. This is our objective.

Well, enough soothing my own conscience and guilt.

▲ JACK S SWENDER (FIRST MARINE DIVISION), LETTER TO "UNCLE AND AUNT", 20 SEPTEMBER 1965

Hailing from Kansas City, Swender arrived in Vietnam in July 1965. He was proud of the cause he was fighting for – and died for it. He was killed in action that December, aged just 22.

We are succeeding in our mission here. We have beaten the famous 95th [PAVN] Regiment down to their knees. We learned from prisoners we took when we captured one of their hospitals that the regiment was below 50% strength, and that they were hunting for food because we guarded the harvest and they couldn't get any of it.

This war isn't by the Geneva Convention. Charlie doesn't take any prisoners, nor do we. Only when the CO sees them first. We shoot the wounded. We only keep a prisoner if there is an LZ near where a chopper can come in and get him out. Charlie has no facilities for keeping prisoners, nor any use for them.

Therefore, surrender is not even considered in a hopeless situation. He has only got about five men from our brigade. We found two of them that had their privates in their mouth, sewn shut, hanging by their ankles from a tree.

That's when they gave us hatchets and we lifted a couple heads. Also tied bodies on the fenders of 2 ½ ton trucks and drove through the village as a warning. We haven't had any mutilations since then that we know about.

Guess I told you they took our hatchets away.

◀ GEORGE R BASSETT (SERGEANT IN THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION), LETTER TO "MOM, DAD AND KIDS", 28 MARCH 1966

This native of Portland, Maine, began his first tour of duty in July 1965, and he returned as a volunteer for a second tour in 1967. Here, he offers an optimistic reading of operations against PAVN (People's Army of Vietnam) forces in Tuy Hoa province. Note: Charlie is a nickname for the Viet Cong (taken from the phonetic Victor Charlie); CO stands for Commanding Officer; LZ is landing zone.

▶ **RICHARD S JOHNSON JR (SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION), LETTER TO "PENNY", 1 MARCH 1967**

For this University of North Carolina graduate, 1966 was a big year. He finished college, got his commission as a Marine Officer and married Elizabeth Penfield Scovil ("Penny"). He arrived in Vietnam in early February 1967. His letters reveal the tedium, excitement, anxiety and longing for home that characterised the combat experience.

Got back from my second patrol yesterday to some bad news. Lon Benoit's patrol, the one I went out with last time, was landed on a booby-trapped hill. Sgt. Barnes, who had been my instructor and was a real nice South Carolina country boy, was blown to pieces by a 500-pound bomb that was booby-trapped - it also injured their Corpsman, who is now on the U.S.S Repose in intensive care. Sgt Banes literally disappeared from the face of the earth. (They took 8 wounded in action and 1 killed in action in 3 minutes).

The patrol was very educational. I saw the jungle for the first time. It requires very slow and patient walking. In fact so slow and patient I thought I would go nuts. Then we got lost, or thought we were.... We saw 6 VC but we were too strung out to fight, so we hid. Then the last 3 days, it turned to cold rain and mud.

In case you wonder what the jungle is like... It is sort of like a nightmare where everything is closing in around you and you sort of want to scream.

▼ **RICHARD S JOHNSON JR, FURTHER LETTERS TO "PENNY", 24 MARCH 1967**

Less than two months after arriving in Vietnam, Johnson is clearly missing home and talks about seeing his sweetheart again. Tragically, just two days after writing these two letters, he was killed. He was 23 years old. Note: OP stands for observation post.

I think of you day and night and how our house looks and how nice Chapel Hill is this time of year. Then I get happy and think of how I'll be there this time next year. I guess Mother and Daddy will be up there about the time you get this letter.

Just another note to say hello as I return to my waiting game before going on patrol. Next time out, we split up and my new Platoon Sergeant takes out ½ the patrol and I the other ½...

It looks like this will be a hot patrol, weatherwise. It is primarily to OP and stay hidden. Boy, I hate to go out with so many people - too much noise.

I guess I can really only say again I love you. That is really the only reason I write.

Interviews with Saigon loyalists

These two interviews, conducted by the Rand Corporation (the second one begins overleaf), provide a sense of the Saigon government's difficulty in asserting rural control, and the disruptive effects of intervention by US forces. The two loyalists were youths from adjacent villages 75 miles north-east of Saigon. The villages came under NLF (National Liberation Front) sway in late February 1965, were retaken by the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) in April, and were then returned to NLF control in June. The GVN (Government of Vietnam) had lost out despite the gratitude some – perhaps many – villagers felt for a government resettlement programme that had helped the poor to improve their lives. To restore GVN control to the area and to keep the rice harvest out of NLF hands, elements of the recently arrived US 173rd Airborne Brigade and the First Infantry Division intervened in late November and early December of that same year as part of Operation New Life. Our interviewees were arrested two days apart in late November by these US forces and handed over to the ARVN. Particularly striking here is the degree to which the ARVN, not to mention US forces, failed to take advantage of two favourably disposed villagers. Whatever its relative military weakness, the NLF had demonstrated at the rice-roots level the power of organisation and relentless education

▼ A YOUNG MAN FROM THE VILLAGE OF VO DAT

This interviewee was described by his interviewer as "intelligent", "fairly well-educated" and "very sincere".

I was a member of the Village Notables Council, therefore I was a GVN civil servant. I was afraid of the VC coming...

[After the February NLF takeover, everyone] who worked or had worked for the GVN [was] arrested. We were about 20...

We were all taken to the mountains to attend a re-education course for a month... The cadre started to teach us how, since 1945, the whole nation has revolted against the French colonialists and rich reactionary landlords for the right to work and earn their living. Now the revolution goes on in the South. The Front fights against the GVN and drives the Americans out of the country in order to bring the Revolution to a successful stage and bring happiness to the people. We were all traitors, since we were all farmers and we worked for the GVN and made ourselves American eyes and ears... Finally, the cadre ordered each one of us to write a declaration telling of all our activities since 1954, all our positions in the GVN administration, how many underground cadres we had helped the GVN to arrest, and how many Front secret organisations we had helped the GVN to discover. We also had to tell what our parents, brothers and sisters did. The cadre told us to write the truth in our declaration. Only with this condition could we benefit from the Front's generosity and be set free. When we finished our declarations, the cadre took us back to our villages. We had spent almost one month in the mountains...

...As soon as we returned from the course, the cadres gathered all the villagers in a meeting to judge us... Finally, the cadres declared those who had been obliged to attend the re-education course were condemned to live under house arrest from 6 to 14 months...

At the beginning of October, the cadre launched a campaign called "Enemy Spies Extermination Campaign"... They urged the villagers to denounce those who had worked for the GVN... Our punishment didn't get any worse, but the cadres were satisfied because they could watch us closely and boil us in front of the villagers...

...At first, most of the villagers thought the Front forces were strong. Besides, the propaganda was effective. Therefore, there were villagers who had confidence in the Front and sympathised with the cadres. But later, things changed. Contributions became heavier each day, the loss of freedom of movement, and trade, sorrow, fatigue, the loss of time and expenses due to forced labour made them see clearly. The real face of the Front appeared. The cadres lost the villagers' sympathy. Some of us even hated them...

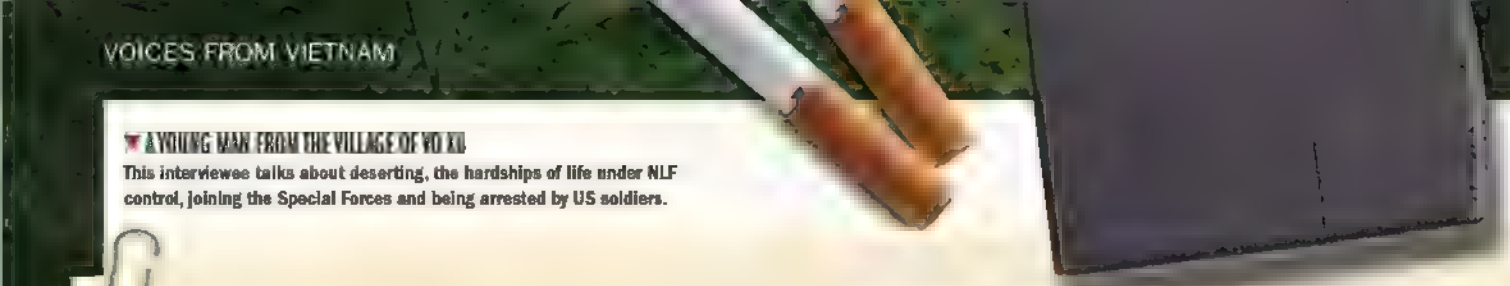
On November 24, the Americans came and occupied [the village] next to mine. During the night of November 25, cadres, guerrillas and most of those who worked for the Front left my village. The next day, at 4:30 A.M. we heard gunfires, and at 6AM American soldiers came into the village... I knew long ago that some day, GVN soldiers would come and reoccupy the village. In order to help the GVN authorities to get rid of the VC that we hated, my friend and I set up secretly a list of men who were entirely for the Front. At the pagoda, we gave this list to the [ARVN] Chaplain Captain. The latter, as well as the Venerable Bronze [monk], advised us to leave the village as soon as possible for Vo Dat village, because we might be kidnapped by the VC. Therefore, at 4PM I left my village on my bicycle for Vo Dat village... As soon as I reached the entrance of Vo Dat village, the Americans arrested me without a word...

...I think most of the villagers considered the Americans to be liberators. But unfortunately, later on they found out that they had been mistaken in having confidence in the Americans. After I had left the village, the Americans started to arrest people for no good reason...

The Americans who arrested me didn't say anything, they didn't ask any questions. They only tied up my hands and bound my eyes. A few hours later, a car brought me to an airport where I had to sit on the open ground the whole night. The next day, at noon they took me into a tent, took off the blindfold, and a Vietnamese Second-Lieutenant interrogated me. He started by asking whether I wanted to live or die. I told him I would like to live. He asked me what I had done for the VC. I told him I never worked for the VC. He said I was lying and he beat me. I was bleeding all over. I tried to tell him the truth about VC control over my village. But he didn't believe me. He kept beating me and telling me I lied. That night, I was allowed to sleep under a tent. The next day, I again had to sit under the sun the whole day, and stay there the whole night. The next morning... once again a Vietnamese Lieutenant interrogated me. I told him the truth, but like the other officer he said I lied, and beat me. He didn't believe that I was a GVN civil servant, even when I told him about the Province Chief's decision which made me a member of the Council of Notables in my village... He didn't even believe that I was the secretary of the Buddhist Association in my village, although I showed him a certificate... Like the other officer, he kept beating me more and more and saying that I lied. Really, I didn't know what I had to tell him. Finally, they sent me to this prison...

...I hate the VC, and I am entirely for the GVN. And they arrested me without reason, beat me, maltreated me, put me in jail, and considered me as the worst of criminals. I really don't understand it. What can I do? What road should I take? There are now 150 of us from my village in this prison. I know almost all of them. I know they didn't like the VC, they weren't for the Front, except for two or three. I know they waited for the GVN soldiers to come, and they were happy to see the American soldiers come, like I was. But American soldiers arrested them and put them in jail. They don't know why and don't understand anything, just like me.

Now the paddy [rice in the field] is ripe, the harvest season is close. We should all be home to reap the paddy that we all need badly. I left my wife in my village and my old grandmother, who was very sick and was ready to die. I hope the GVN will take our situation into account, consider our case justly and set us free soon. We only ask to be able to work quietly, in peace.



A YOUNG MAN FROM THE VILLAGE OF VO XU

This interviewee talks about deserting, the hardships of life under NLF control, joining the Special Forces and being arrested by US soldiers.

Since many youths from my village were joining the [GVN] Civil Guard at that time [February 1962], I decided to do likewise. I stayed until February 1964. I wasn't demobilised. I deserted. In February 1964, I was designated to attend a driving course in Saigon. Since I couldn't take my wife with me, I told her to return to my parents'. But she refused. She told me that if I didn't take her, she would return to her parents'. But I didn't want her to. Besides, my father fell ill and could no longer take care of his ricefields. Since I missed my parents a lot, I decided to desert.

[Following the NLF takeover in February 1965, all the villagers] were frightened. Everybody did what they were told by the VC. Especially I, who had been a GVN soldier. They didn't kill anybody but they arrested twenty people and led them to the mountains to attend re-education sessions. I was ill, so I was allowed to stay home. But my parents and wife had to take the courses.

At the beginning [of the NLF control], because the cadres talked well, and the sudden arrival of VC soldiers gave the impression that the Front forces were powerful, many people liked the cadres. But they became more and more demanding [labour details, taxes, guard duty, travel restrictions].

[After ARVN forces drove the NLF from the village in April] I decided to present myself to the GVN military authorities. When I arrived at the market place, I met an old friend who had been in the Civil Guard with me. In the course of the conversation, he confessed that he himself had deserted. A GVN sergeant who was behind us overheard what we said. So he arrested us as deserters.

I was detained in the GVN soldiers' barracks... for seven days. Many Sergeants advised me to join the Special Forces. They told me that it was the only way for me to avoid imprisonment because I was a deserter. So I agreed to join. I had to go on patrol in the forests constantly. I was afraid to die. Besides, my village was once more under Front control at that time. If I had stayed in the Special Forces, I would have run the risk of never seeing my parents again.

I had intended to give up my life as a soldier a long time ago. [My wife] agreed that I should resume my work as a farmer because the military profession was dangerous. Upon my return [to Vo Xu], I had to present myself to the VC cadres to tell them the truth about my desertion. To punish me for having joined the ARVN, the second time, they sent me to a re-education course... for seven days.

The VC cadres forced me to become a hamlet guerrilla in August '65. All the men between the ages of eighteen and thirty in my hamlet were forced to join. Like them, I was neither a VC nor a VC sympathiser. My village was under Front control. So we had to obey the cadres' orders...

On November 25, artillery shells exploded near my village... The cadres and the guerrillas left the village... I decided to take my family to Vo Dat to take refuge... I met a group of American soldiers. One came to help me by pulling the bicycle. An American came out. When he saw me wearing a shirt for soldiers, he asked me if I was a soldier. I replied that I had been a soldier. So he began to search through my things and found a belt used by soldiers. This is how I was arrested.

I was a prisoner of the Americans in Vo Dat. An American came there to interrogate me. I have always been well treated. There is one thing that I don't understand. There are many people from my village in this prison. They told me that they had been arrested by the Americans. I don't speak of myself because, being a deserter, I'm to blame. But the majority have never done anything reprehensible. I don't understand why the Americans have thrown them in jail.

HISTORY of WAR

on sale 8TH APRIL

KATE ADIE
ON THE HOME FRONT DURING WWI

GREATEST BATTLES
AMIENS AND THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

TRIGGER POINT
THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

COUNTRY IN CONFUCT
THE COLLAPSE OF YUGOSLAVIA

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

HO CHI MINH *and the* WAR *for* VIETNAM

Plus! THE HISTORY OF MILITARY VESSELS · THE B-7 FLYING FORTRESS · BRITISH GENERALS · NEWS AND REVIEWS · CAPTAIN ALBERT BALL

TRIGGER POINT

THE START OF THE SOVIET/ AFGHAN WAR

In the late-Seventies, a new communist regime in Afghanistan was met with disapproval by the country's Islamic fundamentalists. The crisis escalated into a war that involved numerous nations and ultimately changed the world

THE TROUBLE WITH REFORM IS THAT it tends to split people down the middle, and that's when problems arise. This is what happened in Afghanistan in the late Seventies. Following a military coup in which President Mohammad Daoud Khan and his family were executed by the Afghan Army, Nur Muhammad Taraki – Secretary General of the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) – ascended to power in 1978 in what became the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

In a move that echoed King Amanullah Khan's policies in the 1920s, the new government spent the next few months initiating a number of socialist reforms in the country, designed to put different classes and sexes on a more even keel. Local television stations buoyantly reported that rich farmers' land would be divided up among peasants, enabling them to be self subsistent, and that women were being encouraged to remove their veils and learn to read and write alongside the men.

However, just as they had been with Amanullah Khan's policies (the King was forced to abdicate in 1929), the country's Islamic fundamentalists were fiercely against the reforms, believing them to be a threat to ancient customs. Soviet journalist Gennady Bocharov, author of the book *Russian Roulette: Afghanistan Through Russian Eyes*, explained, "To the peasants, the revolutionary government was as remote and incomprehensible as a government on another planet. The peasant acknowledges only one authority: the *mullah*."

"The communists were trying to change the law of God," Sahar Gul, *mullah* of the Laghman Province, elaborated in an interview with CNN. "They wanted to destroy Islamic traditions, to rid Afghanistan of poverty and make everyone equal. But God has decided who is rich and who is poor."

The dissent quickly escalated: universities and schools across the country were burnt down and by the spring of 1979, the vast majority of Afghanistan's provinces had suffered outbreaks of violence. Meanwhile, in neighbouring Islamic countries, Muslims joined in the call for a *jihad* (holy war) against what they perceived to be a Godless new regime.

In response, the government – and in particular Taraki's volatile second-in-command, Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin – ordered a severe repression of its opponents, establishing a secret police force, the "Afghan Interests Protection Service", who imprisoned and executed thousands without trial.

In the Soviet Union, which borders the northern part of Afghanistan, the civil unrest ▶

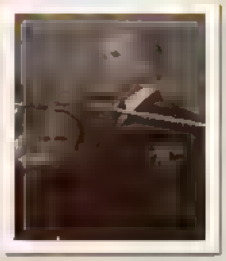
A Red Army [illegible] soldiers in the Hindu [illegible] mountains during the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, [illegible] 1986. In the foreground are [illegible] group of Afghan

Getty Images

KEY FIGURES

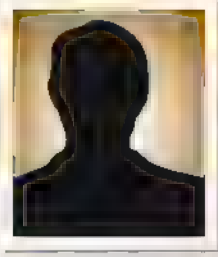
MOHAMMED DAOUD KHAN

Originally the Prime Minister of Afghanistan, Daoud seized power from his cousin, King Zahir, in a bloodless coup, establishing a republic with himself acting as President. He planned to distance Afghanistan from the Soviet Union but was killed in a coup headed by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.



NUR MUHAMMAD TARAKI

One of the founding members of the PDPA, Taraki became President of Afghanistan following the coup to depose Khan, and set about reforming the country with socialist policies. Amid a torrent of civil unrest, he fell out with his second-in-command, Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin, and was later assassinated.



HAFIZULLAH AMIN

Second only to Taraki in the Afghan government, Amin was reportedly responsible for the hardline repression of dissidents. After hearing of Taraki's plan to reduce him to an ambassadorial role, Amin ordered the President's execution. It was his courting of Pakistan and Iran that influenced the Soviet decision to invade.

LEONID BREZHNEV

Brezhnev was leader of the Soviet Union during the first years of the Soviet/Afghan War, having succeeded Nikita Khrushchev in 1964. He was initially reluctant to invade Afghanistan but agreed that it was the best policy after Amin became leader in the country. Brezhnev died in November 1982.

YURI ANDROPOV

As Chairman of the KGB and an influential member of the Politburo at the beginning of the Soviet/Afghan crisis, Andropov was instrumental in the decision to invade Afghanistan, insisting that the action was necessary. He became leader of the Soviet Union following Leonid Brezhnev's death in 1982, and remained in power until 1984.

JIMMY CARTER

The US President at the start of the Soviet/Afghan crisis, Carter voiced his disapproval of Soviet intervention and called for people to boycott the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. Despite threatening the use of nuclear weapons against Brezhnev's government, this never came to fruition. Carter was replaced by Ronald Reagan in 1981.

OPPOSING FORCES

PERSONNEL

SOVIET/DRA
115,000 Soviet; 50,000 DRA
(combined total of 165,000)

MUJAHIDEEN
200,000-250,000

TANKS/ GROUND VEHICLES

SOVIET/DRA
BMP (Boyevaya Mashina Pekhoty) amphibious tracked infantry fighting vehicles
1,800 tanks, including 200 T-54s and 700 T-55s

MUJAHIDEEN
Toyota pick-up trucks

AIRCRAFT

SOVIET/DRA
500-650 helicopters, including 250 Mi-24 Hind gunships and the Mi-6 Hook
Various aeroplanes, including Ilyushin Il-76s, Antonov An-22s and Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21s

MUJAHIDEEN: N/A

RIFLES

SOVIET/DRA
Dragunov sniper rifle
AKU-74 5.4mm assault rifle

MUJAHIDEEN
Short-magazine Lee-Enfield Mk III
Kalashnikov assault rifle

MISSILES

SOVIET/DRA N/A

MUJAHIDEEN
150 FIM-92 Stinger missiles, supplied by the US

MISCELLANEOUS

SOVIET/DRA
Automatic grenade-launchers
Smoke screens
Napalm and antipersonnel mines
Chemical weapons
RPG-18 rocket-launchers

MUJAHIDEEN
RPG-7 antitank grenade-launcher.
5 ZPU-1 and 4 ZPU-2 anti-aircraft heavy machine guns

soon attracted attention – although it wasn't entirely unexpected. "[Then leader of the Soviet Union, Leonid] Brezhnev and the Politburo had tried to talk sense into Kabul," General Vladimir Kryuchkov, the then-Deputy Head of the KGB, told CNN. "We couldn't understand how they could build socialism in just five years. We said, 'You can't do that – we've been building socialism for 60 years and we're still not finished. But they thought it was us that had got it wrong. Naivety was coming out of their every orifice. It was in their every word."

The crisis also became a priority in the United States, especially after demonstrations in Iran led to Shah Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi – who had enjoyed a close relationship with America – being overthrown and replaced by the Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. All of a sudden, America's oil interests in the Persian Gulf were under serious threat. If not from the Iranians, then from the Soviets, who might use the unrest as an excuse to move south and seize control.

"We were faced with the possibility that, one way or the other, before too long we may have either a hostile Iran on the northern shore of the Persian Gulf facing us, or we might even have the Soviets there," then-US National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski told CNN.

In an effort to bring the situation to a quick conclusion by removing Afghanistan's communist regime and restoring equilibrium, the US provided the dissidents with millions of dollars worth of weapons. Many of these men – who called themselves the *Mujahideen*, loosely translated as "struggliers" – had walked many miles across the mountains from Pakistan to join in the fight. At one stage, Brzezinski flew to the Pakistani-Afghan border to rally these men and inspire them to recapture their holy lands, without revealing the US' true intentions.

"It's entirely true that this was a war that was fought with our gold but with their blood," former CIA Director Frank Anderson admitted to CNN.

Negative repercussions

In March 1979, *Mujahideen* rebels staged an uprising in the Afghan city of Herat. Chanting "God is great", the dissidents killed and flayed alive hundreds of Afghans, as well as Soviet advisors and their families. In a state of panic, Taraki turned to Moscow for military aid. He contacted Alexei Kosygin, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and asked for "practical and technical assistance with men and armament". But the Soviets were initially reluctant, fearful that military intervention would lead to negative political repercussions, both at home among Soviet Muslims and abroad, and they stressed to Taraki the importance of easing up on his social reforms. In an interview with CNN, then-Soviet Foreign Minister Vasily Safronchuk remembered the discussions: "The Afghans wanted us to introduce a limited contingent of Soviet troops to guard military bases. They couldn't cope with the *Mujahideen* themselves. They kept pushing for Soviet troops but we kept refusing."

Eventually, however, the Soviets gave in and agreed to limited military aid. This included the redeployment of two Soviet armed divisions at the Soviet-Afghan border, the sending of 500 military and civilian advisers and specialists, plus the delivery of Soviet armed equipment sold at 25 per cent below the original price.

For Taraki, though, there was more than just the civil unrest in his country to worry about. He had fallen out with Prime Minister Amin, with whom he had once enjoyed a seemingly unbreakable relationship. Amin was reportedly disillusioned with his President's dismissal of his suggestions, and felt that Taraki was beginning to believe in his own brilliance. In turn, Taraki – who believed that Amin's hard-line punishment of dissidents was exacerbating the problem – sought to diminish the Prime Minister's power by arranging for him to serve overseas as an ambassador. Amin was furious with this suggestion, screaming, "You are the one who should quit! Because of drink and old age, you have taken leave of your senses!"

> THE SPAT ESCALATED TO THE POINT WHERE AMIN FELT THAT HIS BOSS NEEDED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE EQUATION. SO TARAKI WAS IMPRISONED AND SUFFOCATED

The spat escalated to the point where Amin felt that his boss needed to be removed from the equation, and in September 1979 Taraki was imprisoned and suffocated with a pillow. Amin claimed that the President had died of a "serious illness".

As the new leader of Afghanistan, Amin sought to repair relations with those who opposed his government. He began to invest in the repair of mosques and published a list of 18,000 people who had been executed in the unrest, blaming the killings on Taraki. But he was neither liked nor trusted and, during his tenure, more than half of the soldiers in the Afghan army deserted.

At the same time, Amin attempted to reduce Afghanistan's dependence on the Soviet Union. He did this by balancing the country's relationship

1978 TIMELINE

27-28 APRIL
The communist People's Democratic Party seizes power in Afghanistan after a coup, in which President Daoud and his family are executed. The country is renamed the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA).

21 MAY
Nur Muhammad Taraki is elected President of the DRA.

1979

FEB
USSR begins military aid to the DRA, including hundreds of advisors. Afghan soldiers mutiny in Herat in the west, massacring Soviet citizens before their rebellion is crushed.

7 MAY
A mechanised brigade from the Afghan army's 7th Division defects to the resistance.

AUGUST
The 5th Brigade of the 8th Afghan Division mutinies and joins the resistance in the Kunar Valley.

with Moscow by courting Pakistan and Iran, and he also met with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, one of the leading anti-communists in Afghanistan. These actions were a cause of great concern for the Kremlin, who were also worried that – due to their reluctance to provide substantial military support – Amin might turn to the US for help.

With this in mind, the Politburo called an emergency meeting to discuss how to remove the Afghan President from power. "Our major concern was the security of the southern borders of the Soviet Union," recalled Safronchuk. "We also feared the spread of Islamic fundamentalism into Afghanistan from Iran."

And so, on 12 December 1979, the decision was made to invade Afghanistan. The Soviets had previously employed the tactic of using military intervention to remove a troublesome leader in both Hungary and Czechoslovakia. And while it would be a costly measure, it was considered the best (and quickest) option – at least, by most people present. Karen Brutents, Deputy Chief of the Central Committee's International Department, predicted a disaster. "I said that military intervention in Afghanistan would be very difficult for our army," he told CNN. "It would not necessarily lead to success. One only had to consider the conditions in Afghanistan, its geography, its history and the independent nature of the Afghans."

Assassination force

On 25 December 1979, Operation Storm-333 was set in motion. After Soviet Minister of Defence Dmitry Ustinov issued a statement saying, "The state frontier of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is to be crossed by forces of the 40th Army and the Air Force at 1500hrs," tens of thousands of Soviet soldiers in tanks and trucks made their way across the border. While the Kremlin hoped to bring an end to the crisis within weeks, the mission would result in a nine-year war that would cause the death of some 20,000 Soviet troops and as many as a million Afghan civilians. And on top of the human cost, there was the financial one: the annual price tag for the Soviets was around $2.7billion.

Concerned for his safety, Amin fled from the Presidential Palace in Kabul to the formidable Tajbeg Palace, the roads to which had been heavily mined and were guarded by troops with machine guns, mortars and assault rifles. But the Soviet assassination force was just too strong and, after penetrating Amin's defences, they found and killed the President.

The Soviet invasion was met with widespread disapproval internationally, with the US predictably leading the condemnation. Then-President Jimmy Carter called for a boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, labelling the intervention "a serious threat to peace".

"I had to put restraints on the Soviet Union," he later said in an interview. "One of them was to issue a public statement that if the Soviets did invade either Pakistan or Iraq out of Afghanistan, I would consider this a personal threat to the security of the United States. I would take whatever action I considered appropriate to respond – and I let it be known that this would not exclude a nuclear reaction."

Fatal defects

Fortunately, this was not necessary – although the US did continue to provide support to guerrilla forces in Afghanistan, whose sights were now set on the Soviet invaders. It was ultimately the arrival of Mikhail Gorbachev as the new Soviet leader that set in motion an end to the conflict. The occupation of Afghanistan did not sit well with Gorbachev's "new thinking" on foreign policy, as well as his will to reform his own country's economy. And in May 1988, the first wave of troops were brought home.

To many of the young Soviet soldiers, this was the news they had been waiting for. Like so many young American draftees who had been destined for service in Vietnam in the 1960s and 70s, Soviet men had been frequently reluctant to serve in a war whose purpose they did not understand and in a country about which they knew nothing. One young conscript, Vladislav Tamarov, recalled, "We had no choice. If you weren't in college, if you weren't disabled, if your parents didn't have a lot of money – you were required to serve. Some young men broke their legs, some paid money [for exemption from service]."

As a consequence of the war, the network that became al-Qaeda took root, with Osama Bin Laden and others like him providing substantial funds to future *jihadi*. But the most significant consequence of the conflict was the disintegration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, meaning that communism itself was now dead. Leonid Brezhnev, who passed away in 1982, was once quoted as saying [about communism], "God will never forgive us if we fail". But fail they did, and the USSR split into 15 separate countries after Gorbachev's resignation in 1991. Meanwhile, Afghanistan's civil war continues.

Incredibly, considering the devastating impact the Soviet/Afghan War had on both nations and the world as a whole, relatively little is known about it here in the West. In 1984, Vitaly Smirnov, the Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan, warned that any journalist caught illegally inside the country would be "eliminated". Exactly what he meant by that is a matter of interpretation. But for this reason, television footage and newspaper reports of the crisis were thin on the ground compared to, say, the Gulf or Vietnam Wars, and in many countries the conflict went unnoticed. However, for millions of people in both Afghanistan and the former Soviet Union, the Soviet/Afghan War will never be forgotten.

A Red Army post along the supply route to Russia. Many Soviet men opposed the conflict but were forced to serve

Getty Images

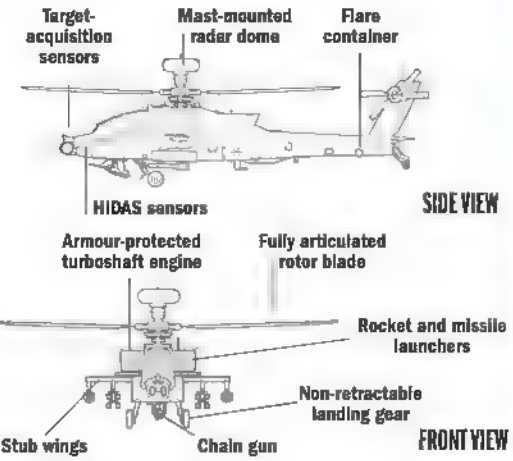
Attack/reconnaissance helicopter

AH-64 APACHE

The anti-armour AH-64 is used by a number of the world's armed forces. It employs many of the offensive and defensive technologies that dominate the modern battlefield

Initially developed by Hughes Helicopters and now produced by Boeing, the twin-engined AH-64 Apache attack helicopter was introduced in 1984. It performed well in Operation Desert Storm in the first Gulf War and subsequently during the US invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. Shown here is the AH1 – a version of Boeing's AH-64D Apache Longbow, but it under licence by AgustaWestland for the British Army.

The Apache's weaponry includes a chain gun, rockets, and its primary armament of Hellfire missiles. Using target acquisition and fire-control systems, the crew merely need to pinpoint what they want to hit and then fire; the missiles will then lock on to the targets and do the rest. This "fire-and-forget" capacity allows the Apache to take evasive action as soon as it has launched its own weapons. To make this slow-flying helicopter less vulnerable in a combat situation, the Apache is equipped with a variety of defensive systems. These include the suppression of infrared radiation (to avoid detection by hostile heat seeking missiles), and sensors that give advance warning of incoming threats.



▲ **T-34/85** The helicopter's fuselage is 15.5m (51ft) in length, and the main rotor diameter measures 14.6m (48ft). With a range of 537km (334 miles), the Apache has a cruising speed of around 260kph (162mph).

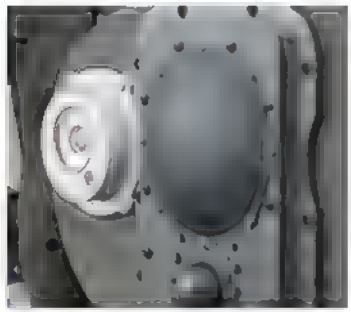
▼ **30MM CHAIN GUN** The Hughes M230 chain gun can fire 625 rounds per minute, fed from a 1,200-round magazine by an electrically driven chain mechanism.

▼ **ROCKET POD** Mounted under the wings, the two pods can each launch 19 unguided 70mm rockets against infantry.

▲ **MISSILE** Up to 16 Hellfire guided missiles can be carried by the aircraft (a training round is shown above). These anti-armour weapons have a range of 8km (five miles).

► **INSTRUMENT PANELS** The pilot sits above and behind the co-pilot/gunner. All the helicopter's systems are displayed in both cockpits and managed using the buttons around the screens.

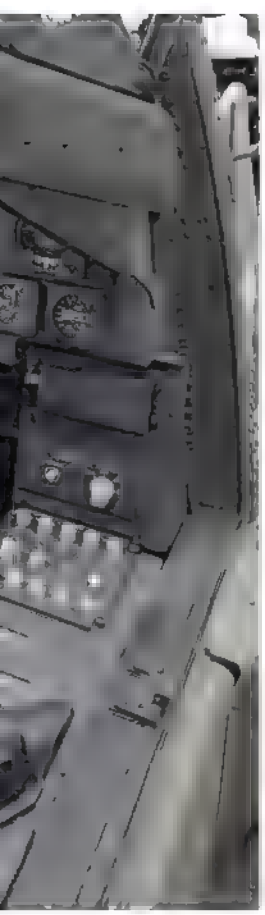
◀ **RADAR "HAT"** The hat-like structure above the main rotor is the Longbow radar. It gives a 360-degree electronic picture of the battlefield, regardless of conditions, and locates enemy targets.



◀ **HIDAS SENSORS** The Helicopter Integrated Defensive Aids System (HIDAS) automatically detects and responds to enemy missiles.

◀ **MAIN ROTOR ASSEMBLY** The rotor blades are attached to the hub by laminated steel straps. The blades can be folded or removed for transportation by air or ship.

◀ **WIRE CUTTER** Blades on the airframe can cut through power cables and telephone wires that could bring the craft down.



▼ **SAFETY BELT** An array of safety features gives the helicopter's crew a good chance of surviving crash landings.

▼ **CANOPY JETTISON** The armoured cockpit canopy can be jettisoned in an emergency.

▶ **PILOT'S MONOCLE** The monocle provides thermal (infrared) imaging and flight information in all weather conditions.

▲ **FLARE CONTAINER** Decoy flares housed near the tail are fired by the helicopter's automatic defence system to confuse hostile missiles.

◀ **CONTROL STICK** Both the pilot and gunner have flight and weapons controls. They can take over from each other if necessary.

This feature is an edited extract from *The Military History Book*, published in the UK by Dorling Kindersley. It is available from both high-street and online book stores, RRP £30

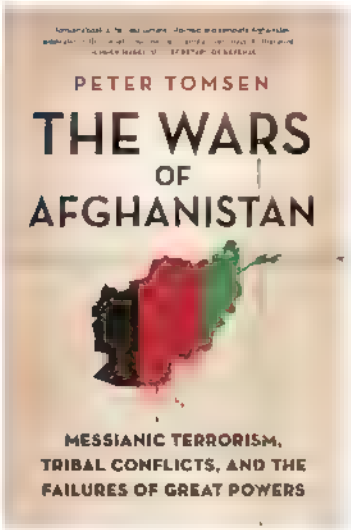
REVIEWS

History Of War casts its eye over the military-based **books, DVDs and games** that may or may not convince you to part with your cash this month

THE WARS OF AFGHANISTAN: MESSIANIC TERRORISM, TRIBAL CONFLICTS AND THE FAILURES OF GREAT POWERS

Peter Tomsen *PublicAffairs* **RRP £17.99**

★★★★★



At 700-plus pages, you would imagine this to be the definitive history of all wars ever waged in Afghanistan. After all, how much war can one country take? In Afghanistan – a strange, lunar landscape familiar to most people only via TV news – the answer is a lot. So perhaps it's not surprising to discover that Peter Tomsen's opus is mainly concerned with the rolling conflict that's consumed the country since the ill-fated Soviet invasion in 1979.

The work is a unique mix of historical interpretation, personal memoir and political polemic. Tomsen, you see, isn't simply an historian – he's a history maker. A US Diplomatic Service veteran of 32 years, he spent the years 1989 to 1992 as President Bush Snr's Special Envoy to Afghanistan. Critical years, indeed.

Rewind to . The Mujahideen, many trained over the border in Pakistan to use US-supplied weapons and tactics, have just defeated the Soviet Union. Mikhail Gorbachev orders the last of the Red Army to withdraw, leaving behind 15,000 Russian corpses and an almost forgotten puppet leader called Mohammad Najibullah.

Najibullah doesn't stand a chance. With the US still backing Islamic extremist groups rallying in Pakistan, he's finally toppled in 1992. The same year, the US government and Tomsen move on and, after more fighting, the Taliban moves in. Najibullah's subsequent treatment at the hands of the movement's shock troops becomes a macabre hint of what's to come.

On 27 September 1996, Taliban fighters seize Najibullah at the UN compound in Kabul. Without trial, he's beaten, castrated, chained to the back of a truck and dragged through the streets of the capital until he's almost dead. His bloody, broken body is then hanged from a traffic light. The message is clear: the new regime in Afghanistan – a regime effectively empowered by the US – will be as barbaric as it is fundamentalist. Tragically, few in Washington heed the warning, and the rest, as they say, is history.

While Tomsen gives an honest account of this period, it's when he writes about US involvement post 9/11 that his rationale for this vast work shines through. He clearly understands the intricacies of Afghanistan and writes about the tribal factions, religious differences and historical forces that have forged it with overwhelming authority. But his book is so much more than an account of what's been; it's a future peace guide for the region, by a man who's witnessed a lifetime of foreign-policy gaffes.

Tomsen calls for the US to re-evaluate its relationship with Pakistan over regional security, as well as developing a more hands-off, common-sense strategy. One that relies more on understanding the bigger picture and less on blundering in, all guns blazing. Essential reading for modern-history enthusiasts and US Presidential nominees alike. **Nick Soldinger**

Tomsen's book is a future peace guide for the region, by a man who's witnessed a lifetime of foreign-policy gaffes

THE NAZI AND THE PSYCHIATRIST

JACK EL-HAI *PublicAffairs* **RRP £17.50**

★★★★

Alfred Hitchcock, who knew a thing or two about making successful thrillers, once said, "A story is only as good as its villain." Despite its title, *The Nazi And The Psychiatrist*, by US journalist Jack El-Hai, isn't a thriller but a thrilling historical account. At its heart, however, it does have one of the greatest villains of the 20th Century.

The story begins in 1945. Europe is in a state of ruin, the Nazi empire has been smashed, and although Adolf Hitler is dead, following his suicide in his Berlin bunker, 22 of his surviving inner circle are facing trial for war crimes. Incarcerated in a hotel in Luxembourg is the biggest (quite literally) of the lot – Hitler's nominated successor, decorated First World War fighter pilot, *bon vivant* and remorseless monster, Hermann Goering.

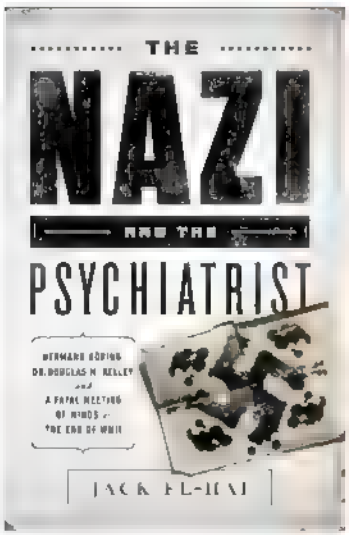
This being the golden age of psychiatry, however, the American authorities want to discover whether the men responsible for Auschwitz and Action T4 are fit to face criminal charges, and/or display some kind of "Nazi personality disorder". Cue ambitious young US Army psychiatrist Douglas M Kelley, who's dispatched to find out.

Through extensive interviews and Rorschach inkblot testing, Kelley assesses all the captured Nazis, including Rudolf Hess, Julius Streicher and Karl Dönitz. Over time, though, it's the enigmatic and cultured Goering to whom he becomes drawn – here was a man who could be both mawkishly sentimental (he ensured Germany was the first country to ban animal testing) and ruthlessly indifferent (in 1940, he ordered the obliteration of the open city of Rotterdam, the subsequent air raid killing 1,000 and leaving 85,000 homeless).

Kelley, it seems, recognised something of himself in the well read, highly manipulative Nazi. In the six months leading up to the trial, as Kelley's role grew from assessor to confidante, he developed a respect for Goering that frequently tipped over into admiration. Indeed, after Goering swallowed a cyanide capsule to dodge the ignominy of the hangman's rope at Nuremberg a year later, Kelley described his star patient's suicide as "a brilliant finishing touch, completing the edifice for Germans to admire in times to come".

Kelley's infatuation was as misplaced as his forecast of Goering's legacy. In fact, the Nazi's spell is long broken in modern Germany. Today, he's remembered as a corpulent crook who helped drag the country through its most shameful period, and is most commonly connected with *kuntstraub* – the ongoing criminal trade in plundered European artworks from the period, which he largely instigated.

Ultimately, though, *The Nazi And The Psychiatrist* is a captivating, superbly researched book that explores the powerful allure of evil – and, in the case of the tragic Dr Kelley, just how costly that can be. **Nick Soldinger**



In the six months leading up to the trial, as Kelley's role grew from assessor to confidante, he developed a respect for Goering that frequently tipped over into admiration

LOVE LETTERS OF THE GREAT WAR

Edited: Mandy Kirkby *Macmillan* **RRP £9.99**

★★★★

This deeply affecting collection of romantic correspondence from the First World War contains some truly heart-rending and poignant human stories. Often, when recounting the events, battles and military campaigns undertaken during that period of history, it's difficult to fully grasp quite how psychologically difficult it must have been for the people involved. However, this book – which collates the hand written stories of ordinary people catapulted into extraordinary circumstances – brings the epic war down to a relatable and human level. In equal measures, there's longing, desire, love, hope and humility in the face of the dark uncertainty that lay ahead.

The most emotionally stirring story for this reviewer surrounded the letters written by Gunner Wilfrid Cove to his wife and daughter, whom he loved dearly and wrote to frequently – his daughter's reply was found in his breast pocket when he was killed shortly after.

The simple, somewhat hopeless message dropped into the sea in a ginger-beer bottle by Private Tom Hughes on his way to France in September 1914, addressed to his sweetheart, also resonates. The letter, written "just to see if it will reach you", expresses a common concern that was shared by many in these pages.

The lives of these brave men and women are brought vividly back to life in this excellent book, which features a thoughtful foreword by Orange Prize-winning author Helen Dunmore, who has written several novels about the First and Second World Wars. *Love Letters Of The Great War* is a highly recommended purchase. **Andy Price**

LAWRENCE IN ARABIA

Scott Anderson *Atlantic Books* **RRP £25**

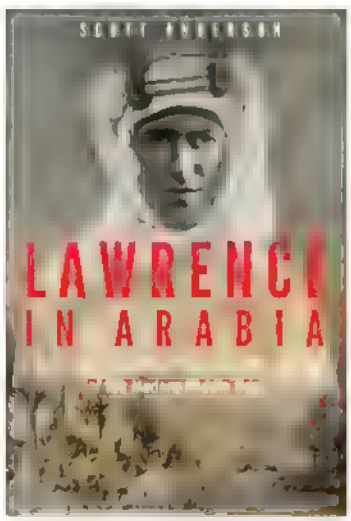
★★★★★

Scott Anderson's book – which tells the swashbuckling story of archaeologist and British Army officer TE Lawrence, a man who helped the Arabs in their fight against the Ottoman Empire during the First World War, helping to create the modern Middle East in the process – has been heaped with honours. The *New York Times* described it as "the best work of military history in recent memory", and it was also shortlisted for the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award (Biography). So I delved into it with high expectations.

It's hard to disagree with the plaudits. The writing herein is concise and accessible, avoiding the dry, history-textbook style beloved of many academics. It's presented in a font that never once causes eye strain or brain ache. And what's more, Anderson is clearly passionate about the subject – the narrative is so colourful and involving, you'd think the author had been stationed in the Arabian desert himself.

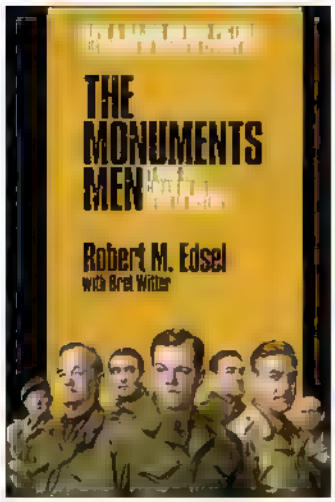
Many of us will have already seen David Lean's 1962 film of Lawrence's life – *Lawrence Of Arabia*, starring Peter O'Toole. However, this has been criticised for distorting the facts in its desire to romanticise the story for the silver screen (for a start, O'Toole was nine inches taller than the real Lawrence, while the attack on Aqaba was heavily fictionalised). Anderson's book sets out to scrub away the myth and legend, and home in on the facts. And satisfyingly, the truth is more compelling than the fiction.

There are few enlightening photos from the period, which is a shame. Otherwise, *Lawrence In Arabia* is full of eastern promise. **Paul Dimery**



THE MONUMENTS MEN

Robert M Edsel with Bret Witter
Arrow **RRP £7.99**
★★★



This book is currently getting a lot of attention, as it's been made into a film by Twentieth Century Fox that's doing rather well at the box office. Sadly, it's this star treatment that exposes its fault lines.

The Monuments Men – written by Robert M Edsel, the founder and President of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art – recounts the barely known but astonishing story of a band of Second World War soldiers who were tasked with locating and rescuing Europe's cultural and artistic artifacts from Nazi theft and destruction.

The book charts with considerable passion the ceaseless dedication of this committed band of troops (including one rather amazing woman), entertainingly conveying the breathless quest that the under-resourced but highly resourceful team undertook.

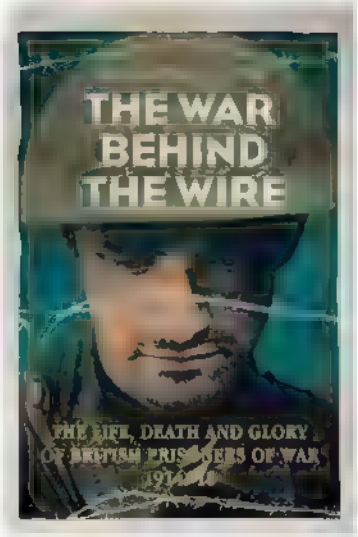
However, you're soon questioning the veracity of the narrative. The author has admitted using creative licence to join some dots, and this is evident when he hypothesises about the soldiers' thoughts and feelings. Perhaps it was desperation to convey the humanity of the situation that made him write this way, but it just distracts from the amazing reality.

Equally, you would be forgiven for thinking that the Second World War was fought against the Nazis solely by America as the British and the other Allied nations looked on reverentially. To that end, the book feels like a pitch for a movie, rather than a fascinating historical account.

The Monuments Men has an amazing story to tell, but misses the objective of telling it. **Mark Sinclair**

THE WAR BEHIND THE WIRE

John Lewis-Stempel
Weidenfeld & Nicolson **RRP £20**
★★★★



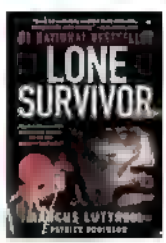
With 171,720 British soldiers taken prisoner by Germany and its allies during the First World War, it's high time these men had their full story told, even if a hundred years have passed. As author John Lewis-Stempel argues in his book, how many people today know the story or even the name of escaper Second Lieutenant Harold Medlicott? And how many of us truly know what being a prisoner of war entails, and the extent of the suffering that these men went through at the hands of the Nazis?

Packed with original transcripts, poems and quotes, Lewis-Stempel's book is fantastically well-written, thoroughly researched and full of surprising facts. Did you know, for example, that the raising of hands to represent a soldier's surrender was an act first seen during the First World War? Lewis-Stempel discusses this during one of his many insights into warfare and capture. As a result of his high regard for detail, the book also contains information and statistics that are graphic and stomach-turning, such as details of mass burials and torture.

It's extremely difficult to fault Lewis-Stempel's work, but it would've been nice to see the inclusion of some images. The lack of photographs turns the book into a challenging read due to its wealth of information with nothing but chapters to segregate it. However, it's a small gripe and, on the whole, *The War Behind The Wire* is a riveting and, at times, harrowing read. **Chris Short**

LONE SURVIVOR

Marcus Luttrell *Sphere* **RRP £7.99**
★★★★



Marcus Luttrell's true account of Operation Red Wings – a 2005 mission to isolate and remove an important Taliban figure allied with Osama Bin Laden in Afghanistan – is an exciting, pulse-pounding and powerful account of modern warfare that brings home the amount of risk faced during operations such as this. The book also highlights the morality faced in combat situations, with the decision not to execute three shepherds a pivotal point from which the mission starts to go drastically and terribly awry.

Occasionally breaking the fourth wall and speaking directly to the reader, the narrative is consistently gripping and gives remarkable insight into the bravery and difficulty faced by soldiers in the field.

One can't help but feel admiration for Luttrell, the only survivor of this ill-fated mission. And his story is now deservedly gaining further attention due to its being made into a Hollywood movie starring Mark Wahlberg. **Andy Price**

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM 2014-2015

Charles Heyman
Pen & Sword Military
RRP £5.99
★★★

It strikes me as slightly absurd that (what seems like) every last detail of the armed forces' personnel, equipment and machinery is in the public domain. Whatever happened to the phrase "classified information"? Still, those military buffs amongst us should be grateful, I guess.

This isn't what you'd call a riveting read, in the sense that there's no narrative or interesting anecdotes. But it will appeal to anyone who played Top Trumps as a kid. Taking each of the armed forces in turn, the book breaks down what's in its arsenal, offering a dazzling array of information that even includes a forecast of what will be spent in the next ten years.

The pictures are merely adequate and some of the content is strictly for obsessives only. But on the whole, this is a useful reference point. Let's just hope it doesn't end up in the wrong hands. **Paul Dimery**

REBELLION: BRITAIN'S FIRST STUART KINGS

Tim Harris *Oxford University Press*
RRP £30
★★★

Renowned European History Professor Tim Harris is the author of numerous essays, articles and books on Britain in the early-modern period, and his latest offering continues along the same lines. Tackling the reigns of the first two Stuart Kings, from 1567 to the outbreak of civil war in 1642, he explores why their kingdoms rose in rebellion.

Charles I and his apparent ineptitude tend to be Harris' main focus here, rather than the causes of the civil war. The book is by no means a light read and will definitely take a while to complete, particularly with Harris' lengthy paragraphs. However, his writing is clearly structured and he considers a wide range of opinions and angles before making his conclusions, so it can't be claimed that he's biased. All in all, *Rebellion* is an interesting – if slightly specialist – read. **Chris Short**

THE STEADY RUNNING OF THE HOUR

Justin Go *William Heinemann*
RRP £14.99
★★★★

Destined to join the long list of wartime romances that have been turned into Hollywood movies (think *The English Patient* and *Atonement*), US author Justin Go's first novel is what they might've called in the Fifties a "rip-roaring adventure". It follows a young American called Tristan as he sets out on a breathless quest to prove his lineage in time to claim his vast inheritance. The trouble is, he only has 27 days. What follows is an engaging detective story that takes in a number of historical sites and events, including the Somme battlefields and the British expeditions to Mount Everest, and leads Campbell to uncover the heartbreaking truth about the man who left the money and the long-lost love who never claimed it. I won't give away the ending – suffice to say, *The Steady Running Of The Hour* will leave you feeling emotionally drained and historically enlightened. **Paul Dimery**

TRIUMPH OF THE WILL

Directed by Leni Riefenstahl *Go Entertain* **RRP £7.85**

★★★★

This year sees the 80th anniversary of the 1934 Nuremberg Rally – one of a series of annual propaganda events held by Hitler's Nazi Party between 1923 and 1938 – and this reissue of Leni Riefenstahl's controversial film about the original occasion will no doubt do much to resurrect her reputation as an innovative director.

To those in the know, Riefenstahl's skills have never really been in doubt. (Indeed, following her death in 2003, aged 101, the BBC noted that her documentaries "were hailed as groundbreaking film-making, pioneering techniques involving cranes, tracking rails and many cameras working at the same time".) What's more debatable is her later insistence that she wasn't really a Nazi, but merely an *ingénue* who'd been mesmerised by the passionate speeches, the flag-waving and the Hugo Boss uniforms. Which, of course, is utter nonsense. To have been given the unprecedented funding and access to make her elaborate films about Adolf and his twisted chums, Riefenstahl would've either had to be a true believer or a ruthless opportunist – and by her own account, she wasn't the latter. (In 1940, believing the war to be won after German troops took over Paris, Riefenstahl actually wrote a telegram to Hitler, saying, "With indescribable joy, deeply moved and filled with burning gratitude, we share with you, my *führer*, your and Germany's greatest victory, the entry of German troops into Paris. You exceed anything human imagination has the power to conceive, achieving deeds without parallel in the history of mankind. How can we ever thank you?")

Regardless of her motives, the films she left behind remain vital historical documents – with *The Triumph Of The Will* arguably the most important. Filmed over four days in September 1934, it captures the appalling brilliance of the Nazi party at the height of its hypnotic powers. The spectacle of the rally is still dazzling to 21st-century eyes, and was clearly overwhelming to many of the 700,000 attendees. The crowds are frequently shown to be lost in a state of pseudo-religious reverie as Hitler and his henchmen deliver a barrage of speeches – all in the same hell-fire preacher manner.

If only the audience had actually listened to what was being preached, because, in between the white noise about pride and freedom, it's clear that, even in 1934, what was really on the agenda was genocidal war. Nowhere is this more creepily apparent than when *Der Führer* addresses the Hitler Youth, telling them that they must harden themselves for the sacrifices ahead. That they must honour themselves on the battlefield as their fathers had done. The sweet-faced boys in uniform cheer him wildly like the next generation would Elvis, and one is left wondering how many were still alive 10 years later. Or were maimed, or mad, or had committed mass murderer on their leader's behalf.

The crowds are shown to be lost in a state of reverie as Hitler and his henchmen deliver a barrage of speeches

So, is this a propaganda film or a documentary masterpiece? Ultimately, it's a propaganda film that documents, quite brilliantly, how the words of a few men so enchanted a deeply civilised nation that it sleepwalked into catastrophe. **James Parker**

VIKINGS

Directed by Ciaran Donnelly, Ken Girotti, Johan Renck
20th Century Fox
RRP £29.99

★★★★

Vikings is an 18 certificate and a quote on the sleeve describes it as "brutal" – so it was no surprise when the first 15 minutes saw one man skewered by a sword and another branded in the face with a red-hot poker. But then, the Vikings weren't exactly known for pussy-footing around. With a second season of this Irish-Canadian TV series due to be aired around about now, the makers have decided to cash in by releasing the first on DVD and Blu-ray.

Over nine episodes, we follow a warrior, Ragnar, who's fighting a battle on two fronts: on one side, he wants to conquer new lands, on the other, he must defend his wife and family from bad guys. While some of the lines are cheesy (at one point, Ragnar compares his heart to a black pudding), it's undoubtedly been made on a big budget and the sets are breathtaking, giving *Vikings* an authentic, filmic quality. **Paul Dimery**

ASSAULT ON NORMANDY: POINTE DU HOC

Directed by Anthony Clayton *Pen & Sword Military* **RRP £16.95**

★★★★

Continuing Pen & Sword Military's series on the D-Day landings, *Pointe du Hoc* recounts the operation to destroy the German gun battery on a promontory overlooking both Utah and Omaha beaches. The job fell to the 2nd Ranger Battalion – an outfit based on the British Commandos – who were required to scale a crumbling cliff face, 100 feet high.

The DVD, which runs for some 90 minutes, covers the operation in fine detail, using location shots at Pointe du Hoc, animated maps and fascinating period photography. The narrative is nicely intercut with sequences describing the Rangers' uniform and equipment.

The location footage is rather washed out, but the information presented is thoroughly researched. In truth, it's probably not a DVD you'll watch often, but it offers an intriguing insight into one of the less well-known chapters of Operation Neptune. **Steve Jarratt**

HERCULES

Directed by Roger Young
Spirit Entertainment Ltd **RRP £5**

★★

I must admit, I like my films with a bit of realism, so this dramatisation of the Greek mythological legend was always going to fall short. Originally released as a two-part TV series in 2004 (both of which are featured on the disc), *Hercules* isn't a total waste of time. The cast – which includes Timothy Dalton, Elizabeth Perkins and, bizarrely, Kristian Schmid from *Neighbours* – perform admirably (especially Dalton, who acts like he's in an RSC production of *Hamlet*). And it has surprisingly high production values for a title you've likely never heard of.

However, the telling of the story is just too wishy-washy to truly capture the imagination. So much so that by the end of the first episode, I had to really motivate myself to sit through the second. If I were you, I'd save my money for the new version of *Hercules* that's due to hit cinema screens in July. It promises to have a little more grit than this. **Paul Dimery**

300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE

Warner Bros **Free**

★★

Here's yet another movie tie-in, this time an app game to promote the March release of the film of the same name.

Looking at the stills on the app store, it's easy to be impressed – the screen shots make the game look exciting and dynamic. And with such a solid pedigree (it has movie giant Warner Brothers behind it), expectations will justifiably be high. Not only that, but it's free – a seemingly remarkable giveaway.

Soon after you start playing the game, however, you become bored. It looks good but has very little user engagement – essentially, it's a repetitive gore fest with a glut of stabbing and blood. Just at the point you expect the game to evolve, to add features or even challenge, you realise it's the same scenario with a different backdrop.

If you're stuck in a queue, maybe *300: Rise Of An Empire* is worth five minutes of your time. Any more than that and you'll wonder why you bothered. **Mark Sinclair**

The Ten Greatest WORLD WAR II MOVIES

Visceral, heroic, harrowing... the best Second World War films bring the conflict to our screens in terrifying detail. Here, we pick our top 10, which depict everything from the D-Day landings to German U-boats

1 SCHINDLER'S LIST

Director **Steven Spielberg, 1993**

Beating his own film to the top spot is the latter of Steven Spielberg's Second World War masterpieces. It tells the incredible true story of Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson), a German industrialist, spy and member of the Nazi party who, horrified by the "punishment" meted out to the Jewish populace by his comrades, saved the lives of 1,200 men, women and children by employing them at his enamelware factory and bribing SS officials to leave them alone. Spielberg's film – which scooped seven Academy Awards, including ones for Best Film and Best Director – is emotive and poignant, while avoiding his usual heavy-handed sentimentalism. At times, it makes for difficult viewing, yet it remains eminently watchable.

2 COME AND SEE

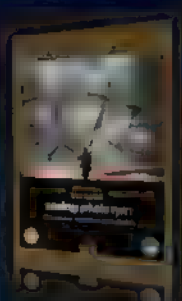
Director **Elem Klimov, 1985**

Based on the real-life experiences of director Elem Klimov, this Soviet movie covers the atrocities carried out by Nazis during their occupation of Belarus, when 628 villages were systematically burned to the ground along with their inhabitants. Central to the story is a 14-year-old boy, Florya, who digs up an old rifle in order to join the Soviet partisans. What follows is an unflinching account of his experiences, which include rapes, executions and churches set on fire. Free of blockbuster effects, *Come And See* explores the psychological effects of the barbarities of war – as Florya descends into insanity, the film takes on a disturbing, hallucinatory feel. But it's also an important depiction of real-world events that acts as a reminder of the depravity that man is capable of in conflict.

3 LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA

Director **Clint Eastwood, 2006**

When Clint Eastwood wanted to recount the US assault on Iwo Jima, he decided it needed two movies: one from the viewpoint of the Americans, the other from the Japanese. The former was well received, but it was the companion film that won the real plaudits. *Letters From Iwo Jima* sees the battle through the eyes of the defenders, who were outnumbered, without air or sea support, and told that they would die defending the island. With a force of just 22,000 men, they weren't expected to hold out for more than five days. But under the guidance of wily, unorthodox Lt General Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe), who suggested building a network of caves and tunnels, they held back 100,000 US troops for 35. Eastwood's desaturated cinematography perfectly captures the despair of the defenders' situation, and this tragic tale is at turns breathtaking and heartbreaking.



4 SAVING PRIVATE RYAN

Director **Steven Spielberg, 1998**

Spielberg's D-Day tale follows a US Army Captain (Tom Hanks) and his squad as they attempt to find and repatriate Private James Francis Ryan. Ryan's three brothers have all been killed in action and it is deemed that their mother must not lose the fourth. The film begins with a depiction of the Omaha Beach landings, with Spielberg capturing the brutality as troops were cut down by German gunfire. On the flip-side, historian Antony Beevor has described the end of the film as "ghastly", suggesting that Spielberg "milks our tear ducts with both hands". But *Saving Private Ryan* still stands as a great war film, presenting an unflinching view of the horrors of combat on a very personal level.

5 THE LONGEST DAY

Directors **Ken Annakin/Andrew Marton, 1962**

Although it was made in 1962, director Ken Annakin shot this epic account of the D-Day landings in black and white docu-drama style (the "colourised" TV version is best avoided). Events are recalled in a linear fashion, starting a few days before the landings, with Allied forces debating the date of their attack while the Germans prevaricate about locations and their intended response. The film also pays respect to other activities, such as the US Paratroopers shot down around Sainte-Mère-Église, the British glider assault on the Pegasus Bridge and a sweeping, three-minute helicopter shot of the Free French Forces' assault on Ouistreham. Eschewing the visceral carnage of *Saving Private Ryan*, this is war stripped of its horror – but it's impressive nonetheless.

6 DAS BOOT

Director **Wolfgang Petersen, 1981**

Focusing on the terrible privations faced by submarine crews, *Das Boot* is based on the real-life exploits of U-96, a Type VIIC U-boat that survived 11 patrols over nearly three years, sinking 27 ships in the process. It follows a war correspondent as he joins the crew and bears witness to the stresses and strains of life at sea: the boredom of a three-week storm, cramped and unhealthy living conditions, and the terror of being depth-charged by the British Navy. While the film is incredibly realistic in its portrayal, the submarine-interior shots were actually shot on land in Munich, using a painstakingly accurate representation of a U-boat that could be shaken and tilted. The effect works brilliantly – *Das Boot* will go down as one of the most poignant German films ever made.

7 A BRIDGE TOO FAR

Director **Richard Attenborough, 1977**

One of a long line of war films directed by Richard Attenborough, *A Bridge Too Far* tells the heroic but ultimately disastrous story of Operation Market Garden, where British troops parachuted into the Netherlands to secure bridges over the Maas and the Rhine, facilitating Field Marshal Montgomery's entry into northern Germany. The plan had been for the 10,000 men of 1st Airborne Division to defend the bridge at Arnhem for two days. However, after a German onslaught decimated the force, just 740 men held it for four. A very British war film, *A Bridge Too Far* is notable for covering what was seen as an Allied failure.

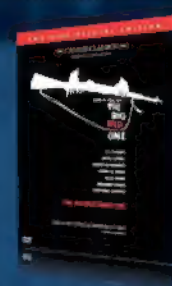
8 DAYS OF GLORY

Director **Rachid Bouchareb, 2006**

This movie highlights the segregation between French troops and their colonial brethren – from Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco – who were recruited to fight alongside them. The action kicks off in the Italian campaign, with an attack on a German mountain outpost, where the French commanding officer sends North African troops in to attack. Later, the same troops are denied privileges, such as tomatoes in their rations and leave of absence to visit home. The film ends with a statement about how the French Government decided to freeze military pensions in former colonial countries at the level of the late 1950s (colonials received a tenth of the pension of French veterans). On its release, so touched was he that President Jacques Chirac ordered the pensions to be paid in full.

9 THE BIG RED ONE

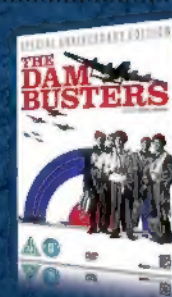
Director **Samuel Fuller, 1980**



Famous for featuring Mark Hamill in between *Star Wars* movies, this is director Samuel Fuller's semi-autobiographical account of life in the 1st Infantry Division (the Big Red One of the title). It follows four men in a squad led by their Sergeant (Lee Marvin), who experience action in North Africa, Sicily and Czechoslovakia, where they help liberate the Falkenau concentration camp. Fuller's brusque, unsentimental storytelling puts the viewer right there with the troops, as they experience all the vicissitudes of war: fear, agony, joy, madness, despair. As the crew move from one battle to another, Fuller presents war as cruel and random, obscene and absurd; a string of unconnected vignettes – because that's what war is like. Darkly comic, dispassionate, sometimes messy, *The Big Red One* is, nonetheless, an intimate depiction of war told by someone who experienced it first-hand.

10 THE DAM BUSTERS

Director **Michael Anderson, 1955**



When the British were seeking a way to halt the German war machine, they looked to the industrialised area of the Ruhr Valley, the site of hydro-electric power stations, factories and mines. Operation Chastise was designed to breach the Möhne, Sorpe and Edersee dams, and was driven by the invention of the "bouncing bomb", the brainchild of inventor Sir Barnes Neville Wallis. This 1955 movie follows Wallis (Michael Redgrave) as he struggles to make his idea work. The climactic mission itself is let down a little by the limitations of 1950s special effects, but the film remains an enduring tale of British ingenuity and skill, and a testament to the bravery and sacrifices of the men of 617 Squadron: of the 133 aircrew involved, only 53 made it back.

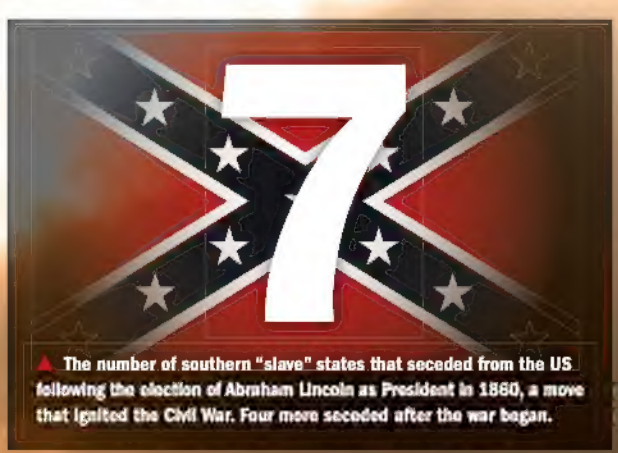
WAR in NUMBERS

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Calculating the 1861-65 clash between the **Union and Confederate Armies**

650,000

▲ The approximate number of Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the war, from combat, accident, starvation and disease. This is around 200,000 more American deaths than occurred during the Second World War, making the Civil War the bloodiest conflict in US history.



7

▲ The number of southern "slave" states that seceded from the US following the election of Abraham Lincoln as President in 1860, a move that ignited the Civil War. Four more seceded after the war began.

7

▲ Seven future Presidents fought: Andrew Johnson, Rutherford Hayes, Ulysses Grant, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, Chester Arthur and William McKinley.

$300

◀ The minimum a man could pay a substitute to fight in the war in his place, equating to around $5,000 in today's money. Abraham Lincoln did it, paying 19-year-old J Summerfield Staples $500 to fight in his place in 1864.

$13

▲ The amount of money white Union Privates made per month during the war. Their black counterparts initially earned $7 – although this discrepancy was rectified in 1864.

68,162

▲ The number of letters received by Clara Barton, who founded an Office of Correspondence with the Friends of the Missing Men of the US Army in 1865. By the time she closed her doors in 1868, she had gathered information on 22,000 troops, and she later set up the Red Cross.

51,116

▲ The number of casualties in the legendary Battle of Gettysburg – fought 1-3 July 1863.

313

▲ The number of Union soldiers who died of sunstroke during the Civil War.

183,000

▲ The number of cases of venereal disease (sexually transmitted infections) detected in the Union Army. In response, the army set up Government-sanctioned prostitution in Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee, where prostitutes worked legally and were subjected to medical examinations and treatment for VD.

2,128,948

▼ The number of Union soldiers who fought in the Civil War. They outnumbered Confederate soldiers by almost two to one.

5 days

◀ President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated just five days after Robert E Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia surrendered. The man who shot him, John Wilkes Booth, wanted to avenge the Confederate states.

400

▲ The number of women who served in the war disguised as men. One of the most famous was Sarah Edmonds, who joined the Union Army as a male nurse called Frank Thompson.

504

The average number of deaths per day during the Civil War – the highest number of any conflict fought before or since.

Aviation&MilitaryBookCentre

Military & Civil Aviation – Military Weapons & Equipment – Naval Vessels

www.aviationbookcentre.com

Achzarit Heavy APC in IDF Service *M Mass*
Colour photo album containing an extensive collection of mostly unpublished photos of the Achzarit Heavy APC in Israeli Defence Force Service.
SB 86pp **£24.99**

On Display Vol.3 British Steel British WWII Armour *R Pituch*
This volume covers British WWII vehicles and contains a variety of builds presented in a step by step guide with useful hints and tips.
SB 96pp **£19.99**

IDF Armor Series 2 Train Hard - Fight Easy *O Zidon*
Covers the training of IDF forces preparing to battle and focuses on advanced training and on combined forces training. Colour photos.
SB 78pp **£22.99**

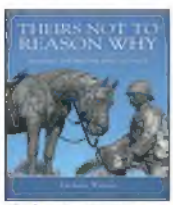
United States vs German Equipment 1945 *U Feist*
Based on a report on US vs German Armour originally prepared for General Eisenhower, comparing US and German equipment.
HB 312pp **£32.50**

Haynes Owners Workshop Manual Churchill Tank Manual *N Montgomery*
The book looks at the tank's development, construction and war record. Colour and B&W photos.
HB 168pp **£21.99**

Capturing Clervaux - The Final Hour *C Joachim* The diorama focuses on a small town, Clervaux, in the Ardennes, with a modelling guide to building the diorama. Colour/B&W photos.
SB 142pp **£24.95**

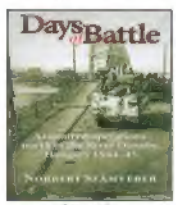
Sturmgeschutz III on the Battlefield 2 *M Panczel* Second volume covers Sturmgeschutz III assault guns during WWII. With dual language captions (Hungarian/English). The B&W photos are from private collections and previously unpublished.
HB 112pp **£23.99**

The Great War From the Air Then and Now *G Ramsey* Includes: Houthulst, Houplines, Bailleul, Vlamertinghe, Armentieres, Wulvergem, Crete des Eparges, Hill 60, Souchez/Cabaret Rouge, Montauban/ Carnoy, Hohenzollern Redoubt and more. Colour/B&W photos.
HB 128pp **£19.95**



Theirs Not To Reason Why. Horsing the British Army 1875-1925 *G Winton* A comprehensive study of the use of horse services in the British Army between 1875 and 1923 including the use of horses in the 1899-1902 Anglo-Boer and the 1914-18 wars. B&W photos and maps.
HB 520pp **£37.50**

Portugal's Guerrilla Wars in Africa Lisbon's Three Wars in Angola, Mozambique and Portuguese Guinea 1961-74 *A Venter*
The author, a foreign correspondent who covered Portugal's three wars, gives a journalist's perspective of the events, illustrated with his own images.
HB 494pp **£27.50**

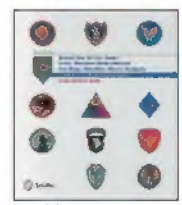


Days of Battle Armoured operations north of the River Danube, Hungary 1944-45 *N Számvéber*
A new study that throws much-needed light on armoured warfare on the Eastern Front during the final months of the war and describes a much neglected part of Hungarian history.
HB 176pp **£35.00**

Magach Tanks of the IDF. Magach 1 & 2 Volume 1. The Complete Guide to Magach Tanks in Israeli Service *R Manasherob*
Covers the history of the IDF early M48A1 and M4812C Magach tanks. With dozens of unique and previously unpublished photos.
SB 80pp **£27.99**

Stemming the Tide Officers and Leadership in the British Expeditionary Force 1914 *S Jones*
This book reveals that when faced with the realities of modern combat, the officers of the BEF were prepared for the challenge and offers a broad picture of command at all levels.
HB 360pp **£29.95**

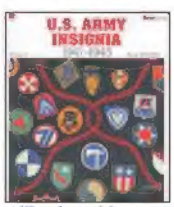
Sturmgeschütz-Brigade 191 La "Buffelbrigade" de 1940-45 des Balkans à la steppe des Kalmouks *B Bork* Established on 1 October 1949, this book documents the history of this unit with over 360 black and white photos. FRENCH TEXT.
HB 276pp **£36.50**



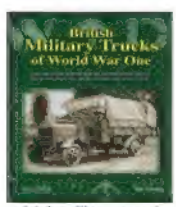
World War II US Made Fully Machine-Embroidered, Cut-Edge, Shoulder Sleeve Insignia and how they were manufactured *H Bree*
Lavishly illustrated, colour reference focusing on WWII US made, fully machine embroidered, cut edge shoulder sleeve insignia.
RB 320pp **£49.95**

Nurnberg's Panzer Factory: A Photographic Study *R Macdougall*
An illustrated study of the vehicles designed, developed and produced at the M·A·N plant in Nürnberg during the period 1934-1945. It graphically shows the development of M.A.N vehicles and variants for use by the German military. With over 200 black and white photos.
HB 223pp **£32.99**

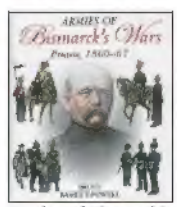
Tankograd Panzerkampfwagen T 34 - 747(r) The Soviet T-34 Tank as Beutepanzer and Panzerattrappe in German Wehrmacht Service 1941-45 *J Vollert* A comprehensive study with over 500 B&W photos.
HB 328pp **£43.95**



Militaria Guides 6 US Army Insignia 1941-1945 Volume 1 Army groups, Armies, Army Corps and Infantry Divisions. *P Besnard* A fully illustrated colour guide to the insignia worn by U.S. army units in Europe, Asia and the Pacific.
SB 82pp **£17.50**



British Military Trucks of World War One Types and Variants of British-Built and Non-British-Built Trucks in British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Flying Corps Service 1914-18 *T Gosling* A comprehensive overview of British forces trucks.
HB 200pp **£34.99**



Armies of Bismarck's Wars : Prussia, 1860 - 1857 *B Bassett-Powell*
Describes the history and battles of the Prussian army, as well as lesser known details concerning its rise to prominence. The growth of the General Staff is also examined.
HB 370pp **£43.00**

Osprey New Vanguard 206 US Army and Marine Corps MRAPs Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles *M Guardia* Looks at the design, development and operational history MRAP vehicles with technical details.
SB 48pp **£9.99**

De Kronstadt à la Normandie avec un officier de la Hohenstaufen *P Tiquet*
The book narrates the experiences of a young German from Romania who enlisted in the Waffen-SS during the Second World War. FRENCH TEXT.
HB 80pp **£20.99**

Osprey New Vanguard 204 British Battleships 1914-18 (2) The Super Dreadnoughts *A Konstam* Looks at the design, development and operational history and service modifications of the super Dreadnoughts.
SB 48pp **£9.99**

Als Panzermann in Afrika und Italien 1942-45 Panzer Regiment 8 und schwere Panzer-Abt 508 *A Urbanke*
This volume focuses on the photographs of Hans Becker and of the two Units. With accompanying text, surviving diary entries and letters to his wife. Colour photos.
HB 248pp **£56.00**

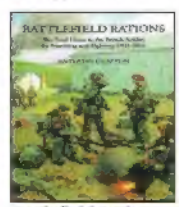
Military Miniatures in Review 59
M48 Patton tank; 3D printing; Type 94 times two, Cargo trucks from Fine Models; US Special Forces LMTV plus much more.
SB 80pp **£8.99**

Steel Masters Hors serie 1 Nov 2013
New series starting with tanks of the French army 1916-2013. Looks at Renaults FT, R35 plus many others. FRENCH TEXT.
SB 84pp **£6.99**

Ship Dioramas: Bringing Your Models to Life *D Griffith*
A guide to building and displaying ship dioramas. Works range from a single ship diorama to a full display.
HB 144pp **£25.00**

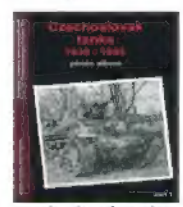
1st Bedfordshires Part Two: Arras to the Armistice *S Fuller*
This part covers October 1916 until the end of the war. Contains official and personal sources.
HB 230pp **£19.95**

Les Cuirasses de la Classe Charlemagne *P Caresse* Comprised of hard and softback volumes. HB - B&W photos. SB - Line drawings, and colour profiles. FRENCH TEXT.
200pp **£42.00**



Battlefield Rations The Food Given to the British Soldier For Marching and Fighting 1900-2011 *A Clayton* Sets out the human story of the food of the front-line soldier.
SB 112pp **£16.95**

La Bataille du Cotentin 9-19 juin 1944 *Ge Bernage*
Well illustrated Colour/B&W album looking at the officers, uniforms, buildings, maps, plus more. FRENCH TEXT.
HB 80pp **£12.99**



Czechoslovak tanks 1930-1945 *V Francev*
Captioned B&W photo album covering prototypes, tankettes, tanks and export tanks, LT vz.35 - PzKpfw.35(t). Czech and English text.
SB 144pp **£21.99**

order via our secure website: **www.aviationbookcentre.com**

T: **0845 260 4413** (+44 845 260 4413) E: **sales@aviationbookcentre.com**

Post: **Aviation & Military Book Centre(H), PO Box 10159, Coalville, Leics LE67 1WB**

Delivery charges UK: Order value below £20 = £3.50,£20+above = £5.50
Overseas: Standard Airmail please add 15% of order value. Minimum £5.50. Priority Airmail please add 20% of order value. Minimum £7.50.

We accept: Mastercard, Visa, Visa Delta, Maestro (Switch), Solo, Postal Orders, £ Sterling Cheque drawn on a UK Bank. Cheques made payable to Aviation Book Centre Ltd.

#PHILBY

A LOYAL FRIEND
A TRUE GENTLEMAN
BRITAIN'S MOST NOTORIOUS TRAITOR

PHILBY

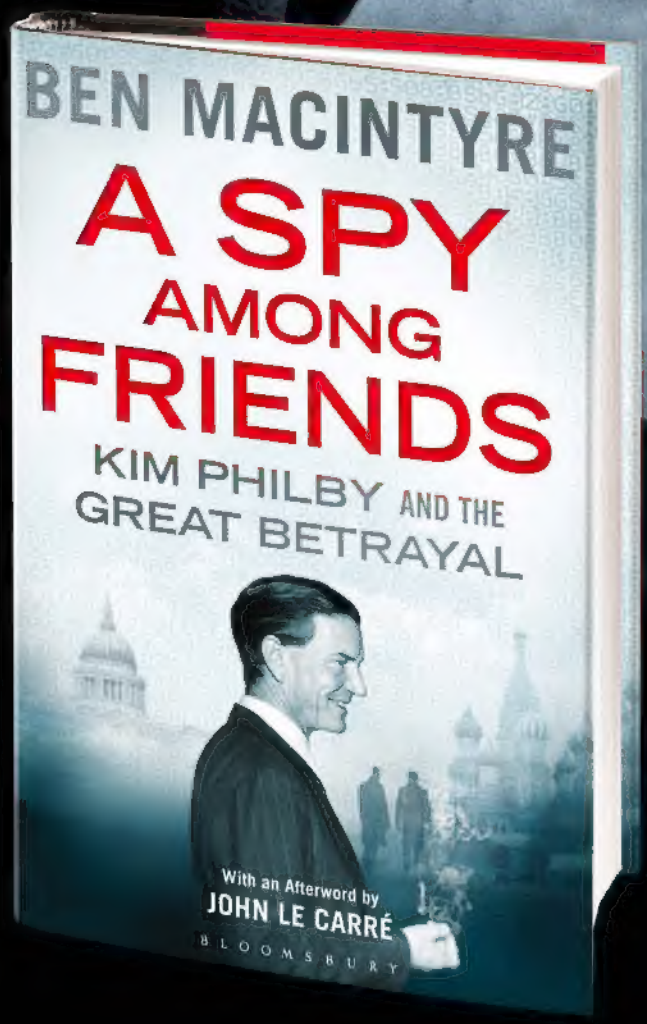
ON BEN MACINTYRE:

'FIRST CLASS'
SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

'ASTONISHING'
DAILY MAIL

'THRILLING'
SUNDAY TIMES

'SUPERB'
EVENING STANDARD



Available as an eBook

BLOOMSBURY